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FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

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Editorial.

THE CRANBERRY FOR PROFIT.

ARTICLE NO. III.

In the selection of vines, an effort should be made to get those that produce good fruit of high color and large size, and care should be taken not to purchase from localities where the vine-worm has made its appearance, for it would be better to get vines from the nearest natural cranberry bog, that are free from insects, than to get the most celebrated cultivated varieties from a locality infected with either the vine or berry-worm. With a little observation of native plants we are sure to find in the same locality many of the natural state can be found quite as good as some of the cultivated varieties. It is always best to select vines when the fruit is on them, then the quality of the cranberry can be ascertained. To test the quality, cut the berry open, and if the cavities are small, the seed small, and the flesh thick and firm, it may be considered good, and will make good jelly; but if the cavities are large, seed large, with a thin, soft flesh, it should be rejected, whatever may be its size and color, or however early it may be, this last quality is of but little account to those who have plenty of water at their command; but color is important; a berry that is of a dark red at harvest time will command a better price than a light-colored berry. While a large berry is always to be preferred, the size is not so important as the color. If possible, avoid purchasing vines that have to be transported long distances, or those the qualities of which little is known; endeavor to get them near where they are to be set, and purchase not by the barrel after taken up, but by the rod where they grow, and remove as they are wanted to set, never leaving them out of ground more than two days when it can be avoided. Before the vines are set they should be separated to single roots, and if there should be any grass or moss among them, it should all be picked out before the vines are carried on to the land where they are to be set, thus preventing it from growing among the new vines.

When the sand is spread, and the surface made level and smooth, with a marker made with six wooden teeth, ten inches apart, mark the ground for a day's work into squares of ten inches, by drawing the marker across the land both ways. Where each mark crosses the other press the root of the vine into the sand about three inches; for this purpose use a forked stick; if the sand be just spread, as it should be, it will be so loose that the root can be very easily pressed in with the stick without injury; should the root be too long from ten to twelve inches or more in length, as it most likely will, with a forked stick press the middle of the vine to the middle of the square, it will readily take root and thus make two plants. The expense of thus setting plants will be about 75 dollars per acre, including cost of vines. This work should be done during the month of May, the first half of the month being the best.

During the time of setting the plants the water should be kept within from six to nine inches of the surface, and as soon as the whole of the vines are set it should be raised to from three to six inches, according to the weather, if the weather be very hot and dry, it should be kept within three inches, but if it be wet and cloudy, six inches from the surface is high enough. During June, July and a portion of August, the plants should be very closely watched, raising and lowering the water according to the weather; by so doing the vines may be prevented from getting sunburned, and kept in such vigorous state of growth as to make runners from two to four feet in length by the end of August, and the ground at the end of the first season will be well covered with vines that but very little of the sand will be seen when looking at the meadow but a few rods off.

If a proper material has been used for covering the meadow, the expense of weeding the first year will be very light, say ten dollars per acre, and as the ground will be well covered with vines the second year, the expense of weeding will be even less the second than the first year. But little fruit will be obtained the first year, though sometimes from three to five bushels to the acre are obtained even the first year; the second year a good crop may be expected, and it is not at all improbable that enough may be obtained to pay all of the expense of preparing the ground and setting the vines, thus leaving all future crops as clear profit after paying for picking the fruit and the slight expense of caring for the meadow.

After the first of September the water should be brought up near the surface, so that when there is an indication of a frost the water can be brought up so as to just cover the surface; but care should be taken to draw it off as soon as the sun is up the next morning; in this way the fruit may be left on the vines to the end of September. Before winter sets in the water should be raised so as to be from one to two feet above the vines, varying the depth according to the weather, always keeping the water deep enough so no ice will make at the bottom—the depth which ice will make depending on locality and the severity of the winter; near the ocean it will very rarely freeze more than twelve inches in depth, but in the interior it will freeze much deeper. In the spring the water should be gradually drawn down so as to reach the surface about the first of May; there it should be held, and every cold night the meadow should be flooded to keep the frost off; by the middle of June, when all danger of frost is over, the water, after the first year, may be drawn twelve inches below the surface and kept there until there is no danger of frosts to injure the fruit, unless the berry-worm should appear in August, then selecting a cool night the meadow should be well flooded so as to cover all of the fruit, but care should be taken to draw it all off again the next morning before sunrise.

The gathering should always be done by hand-picking, for two reasons: first, the fruit is better, not being injured by the rake; second, the vines are not injured as much as when the fruit is gathered by a rake. Hand-picked berries always command a better price than those gathered with a cranberry rake. The fruit after being gathered should be well winnowed to separate it from all other substances, and when the dampness is dried from the outside of the berries, pack in good clean barrels and sell at once, or store in a cool place where water will not freeze.

It must be remembered that what we have written in these articles relates to meadows exactly adapted to the growth of the cranberry, and not to the thousands of acres that are set with cranberries that are not adapted to their growth. It would be better to pay 500 dollars per acre for land where there is plenty of water during the entire season that can be fully controlled, and has a soil exactly adapted to the growth of the cranberry, than to take land as a gift where the water cannot be controlled, or where the soil is unfavorable.

We wish to make it clear to every reader of these articles that we do not advise any one to put their money into the cranberry business unless they can secure a favorable location. With a good location and fair management, there are but few investments that are more sure of very large dividends than the cranberry business.

WIND-FALL APPLES.

Very few farmers keep the apples in their orchards picked up clean—in fact, it is the general practice to let them remain where they drop until gathering time. Whether this is the best policy is a question; it is quite a task to pick the fruit up as fast as it drops, and if the apples are sour winter apples they are of little or no value to feed to farm stock, unless it be to pigs, who seem to thrive well when turned into the orchard, though it may be questioned if it is not more by the grass they eat than the apples. Sweet apples and ripe summer and fall apples are valuable to feed out, even to milch cows, as they are picked up from the orchard; no doubt they are worth two or three times what it costs to pick them up; but in feeding any apples to farm stock, especially milch cows, care should be taken to commence feeding with a small quantity, increasing very gradually until they are given as many as is believed beneficial, two pecks a day to a cow is not too many when they get accustomed to them. It should always be kept in mind that the fruit should be nearly ripe to be of much value to feed out.

It is contended by many that it is important to keep the apples picked up to destroy the worms that produce the codling moth, but it is a question if very much is gained in this direction unless the fruit is picked up and destroyed, or fed out immediately after it drops; for as a rule the worm leaves the apple very soon after it reaches the ground, and very often even before it leaves the tree; therefore, while to keep the apples picked up as fast as they drop may lessen the number of codling moths, it will by no means totally destroy them, as some have believed.

When a sufficient number of hogs are turned into an orchard to eat the fruit as fast as it drops, it will do much to reduce the number of apple worms the next season, not only because the hogs destroy the worms that are in the apples, but because they root up the ground and destroy many of the worms that have left the apples to find a place wherein to change to the moth form.

Many wind-fall apples are picked up to be made into cider; but when this is done only the best are selected, the small green apples are left to decay under the trees. The price paid for cider apples varies from four to ten cents a bushel; this will a trifle more than pay for the picking up; those that are good enough to feed out to stock are considered by many to be worth sixteen cents per bushel, and some as high as twenty-five cents. That they make a good food for most of farm stock, there can be but little doubt. A peck a day fed to even a work horse makes a wonderful difference in his appearance. The mistake that is often made in feeding apples to farm stock, is in commencing to feed unripe, sour wind-falls; these are not only of no value, but seem to be a positive injury to many animals, more especially milch cows. How to make the best of the wind-fall apples is a problem that must be left for every farmer to solve by considering the conditions connected with his particular farm.

HARVESTING CROPS.

Every product of the farm has its best time to harvest it, and if gathered before, or permitted to remain ungathered later, it fails to come up to its best condition when wanted for consumption. Just when this time arrives to some crops it is very difficult to decide; and in the pressure of work it often happens that the farmer is not ready to harvest a crop just at the time he believes to be the best, so quite a large proportion of our crops are either gathered too soon, or are not gathered until after the time they should be. Some crops are injured more than others by not being harvested at the right time. The small grains remain but a short time in their best condition; if gathered but a few days before ripe, the kernel will shrink very much, and if permitted to stand a few days too long it may be very much injured by a rain storm, or if dry weather, much of it lost by dropping out of the ear while harvesting. The change in grass is not quite so rapid; but there is a best time for cutting each field of grass, but just when this time arrives it is not very clear to the most intelligent farmers, and there is quite a difference of opinion as to what condition grass should be in when cut; and as surrounding circumstances have much to do with this, it must be left to each farmer to consider and decide his own particular case. Every farmer should make it his business to inform himself as to the best time to cut each field of grass, to secure to his own particular wants the best results; in fact, he should carefully observe the condition of all his crops, and as far as possible satisfy himself when each crop is in the best state to harvest.

The crops that have the fewest days or hours when in full perfection should secure the first attention, and the crops that remain the longest unchanged should be left until the more important work is done.

Just when to gather even winter fruit is sometimes very difficult to decide; while it may be well known that a few days more of good weather would very much improve it, an approaching storm may make it seem very desirable to gather it, even though it may not be in its highest condition. As we are never certain what the weather will be, so we are never sure that we are harvesting our fruit at just the right time. One serious difficulty which the farmer meets with in harvesting his winter fruit is the hot weather that often follows. What is wanted is a well-constructed fruit house that will keep out the heat of a warm October day; then it would not be so difficult to decide when to gather winter fruit; for if gathered as soon as grown and stored in a room with an even temperature, it would ripen without decaying, as is often the case when heated by warm weather after being gathered.

The time is no doubt coming when we shall have storehouses so constructed that we can keep the perishable products of the farm until wanted for consumption, and yet have them ripen to full perfection without loss by decay; then we shall not be so much in doubt as to when it is best to harvest our fruits and vegetables.

Correspondence.

THE NATIONAL GRANGE.

LECTURER'S COMMUNICATION.

WORK FOR OCTOBER.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

This is the last quarterly communication for 1885, and with it expires my term of office as Lecturer of the National Grange. I improve this opportunity to return our most hearty thanks to the members of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, for much encouragement received during our six years' official labor in this department, and for the uniform kindness and universal courtesy extended us at all times and upon all occasions. Special thanks are due and are hereby tendered to the Grange Press, who have so promptly published, *without charge*, these monthly topics for discussion in the Subordinate Granges, and, where Granges have secured a liberal circulation of Grange papers, there we find these topics best studied and best discussed at Grange meetings, best understood and doubtless accomplished the most good.

We invite special attention of members to the suggestions on Grange literature, on the question for December, 1885. Supply the farmers of every Grange neighborhood with sound Grange literature, and the good work intended to be accomplished by the organization of the Grange will steadily, surely and safely move on in its grand work.

SUBJECT FOR OCTOBER, 1885.

Question 78.—Is the mission of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry completed?

Suggestions.—This question will doubtless strike many members with surprise, coming from the source it does. But, inasmuch as it is so repeatedly said by persons who have but little friendship for the order, that the work of the Grange is done, its mission completed, they admit that it has done some good, but that its work is finished, etc. Remarks like these are frequently made, and often by farmers who are not identified with the order, and doubtless many believe it, and it may be that occasionally a thoughtless member believes it.

It is, therefore, the part of wisdom to consider this question, so as to correct the error, and refute opposing elements of this and questions of like character, to establish greater confidence and exert stronger influence with non-membership farmers, to convince them of facts concerning the order as to its mission, usefulness and work.

Is the work of the Grange completed? We answer most emphatically, No! As well might we suppose that a community organize, build a schoolhouse, employ a teacher for a few seasons, and then abandon the work, and pretend that the children of that community were now educated; or, a God-fearing people form a religious society, build a place of worship, engage a preacher, and then claim that their salvation was secure and their religious life completed.

It would be equally as reasonable to say, Our National Government has done a great work in establishing an independent government and in awakening the people to a sense of civil liberty, and the responsibility of true citizenship, and now say that the mission of our government was completed, and therefore might as well disorganize and turn its subjects over to the unfriendly mercy of the savage sharks and pirates.

The Grange was organized for the sole purpose of bettering the condition and elevating the American farmers—in other words, to organize the farmers into a fraternal union and there to assist each other in educating themselves to a better understanding of farm work and its management, as well as upon political economy, which prepares them for the duties of farmers and citizens, by understanding the rules of business, laws of trade, supply and demand, expenditures, public improvement, taxation, transportation, affairs of government, etc.

If farmers were thoroughly organized and thus educated, could they not manage their affairs and transact their business to better advantage to themselves? Could they not realize greater rewards for their labor and a greater per cent. on their investment? Could they not exert greater influence in business and affairs of government on the side of right and justice? Could they not by the power of co-operative organization remove the errors of which they complain?

Does not the social culture and the intellectual advancement made in the Subordinate Granges elevate its members to a higher and nobler standing in life, and to greater usefulness in the world?

Is it not an absolute necessity for the present and future welfare and prosperity of the farmers that they be organized and educated as indicated in these questions? These were the objects and mission of the Grange. Are they completed? No.

In the discussion of this question consider what has been accomplished in the various departments, socially, intellectually and financially, to the advantage of members, and what is still to be gained by proper efforts. It will furnish us much for future encouragement.

The object for which the Order was instituted must be accomplished, and much of the work must be done in the Sub. Granges, and our advancement will be in proportion to our own efforts; if the proper and necessary work is done, success is secured. It is foolish to suppose for a moment that the work is completed. It would be the height of folly to abandon the work and cease in efforts under the delusion that the work is done and the objects accomplished. It would be like soldiers deserting and sulking off into seclusion while on the march to the battle-field, where a glorious victory awaits them. It would be a surrender to the enemy without a struggle. Nay, the work is not completed, but advancing.

Questions & Answers.

☞ *All questions to the Editor, desiring answer through the* PLOUGHMAN, *should be accompanied by the full name of the correspondent.*

EYE DISEASE IN HENS.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Out of my flock of Plymouth Rock and Brahma fowls which have good treatment, wide range, variety of food and good housing, comes one Plymouth Rock hen with whole head and face *swelled* badly, no difficulty in breathing, no collection of yellow offensive matter in throat or nostrils as in roup, but an inability to come open inside lid or curtain to the eye; *blindness* from this cause. Appetite good, and digestion all right, will feed herself when food is placed within reach; but the swelling *obstinate*, not yielding to careful washing of parts with castile soap and dilute solution of sulphate zinc.

Will you have the kindness to consider the case, and indicate through the columns of the *Ploughman* the treatment indicated (or I hear of others in distant part of the town), and oblige an old subscriber to your paper?

Very truly, yours, OLIVER LANE.

Exeter, N. H., Sept. 9, 1885.

[We consider that the swollen head, or "sore head," with the accompanying affection of the eye, is allied to roup, the disease being produced by the same causes, although assuming this rather unusual form.

Affections of the eye are not uncommon in roup, and are due to a specific inflammation of the part, or to an extension of the disease from the nasal passages, following the mucous or lining membrane, from thence extending to the tissues of the head. The inability to lift the thin or inner lid is due to a paralysis of the neighboring muscles.

For treatment, give no raw grain, but in its place feed well-boiled barley or oat meal. Apply with a feather or brush daily to the eyelids and head a solution of nitrate of silver, ten grains to the ounce of water. Keep the parts clean by careful washing with tepid water, and place the bird in new quarters that are well aired and protected. Dissolve carbonate of soda in the drinking water.—ED.]

A CHEAP AND EASILY MADE "SILO."

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Rev. Elias Nason, the well-known author and lecturer, sends to the *Ploughman* the following:—

"Purchase of your storeman three or four empty Porto Rico molasses hogsheads. They will cost about one dollar each. Knock off the upper hoops, take out the upper heads, and you will find enough sugar inside to pay for the hogsheads. Cut your fodder corn with your hay cutter (and this is easily done) to about four or five inches in length, then fill with it your hogsheads, treading it down snugly as you throw it in. Let it stand a day or two and then rehead the hogsheads, or cover the ensilage tightly with India-rubber cloth or some other air-proof material. Where one has but one cow the contents of these three hogsheads will, with some grain or hay fed with the ensilage, last several weeks and increase the flow of milk. Try it once and you will try it again."

Porcine.

WEANING PIGS.

In weaning pigs there is something more to be considered than simply taking them away from their mother. They should be weaned gradually, so as not to get any stunt or set-back. To take pigs away from their mother and little home before they have been taught to eat gives them a check for at least two weeks, and this is quite a little part of their lives if they are designed for slaughter when they are six to eight months old. Feeding them in a separate place, to which they have access, will accustom them to eating, and, when deprived of their mother's milk, they will refuse to eat until driven to it by hunger.

They must not be fed too much at a time, or they will eat so much that they will become poddy. When their food is very sloppy they will take so much that the stomach will be distended beyond its natural size, and the result is a pot-bellied pig, which means a pig with an unnatural and disordered stomach, a mean looking pig, and one which never makes a good animal. It makes hog enough, for it always has an unnatural appetite to fill the big void made by the washy or excessive food it had when young. A little and often should be the rule with pigs when weaning, and also afterward. A healthy hog has a very quick digestion, if the stomach is not overcrowded. When this rule is followed they will grow faster and keep their shape better. The little pigs should never be fed more than they will eat up clean, for if they have any swill or milk left over, they will mean in it and drop their excretions in it, so that it will become very foul and unhealthful.

Five times a day is enough to feed pigs when they are suckling, and if they get a good supply from their mother three times will do, or when the old one is fed. When fed five times the first feeding should be in the morning, the next in the middle of the forenoon, then at noon, again in the middle of the afternoon, and finally at night. These are the best times to feed all through the season. Any amount of food fed at these intervals will make more growth in a given length of time than the same quantity of food given three times a day. A hog will always eat to excess if confined and fed all it can take. It will always do the same if it be turned into a field of grain, or when first turned into a fresh field of corn or peas. After the first gorge, if left alone, it will eat only a good meal and lie down by the food with a complacent expression, as much as to say, "Here is enough."

It is important that the troughs should be low in which little pigs eat. When a young pig hangs on its stomach to eat out of a trough, it is in just the position to hump up its back and spoil its shape. It may be noticed that I have not recommended corn for pigs. This is because it is the worst kind of food which can be given to them, although the commonest. A little, mingled with oats, or wheat middlings, will do no harm, but good; but an entire feeding of corn is a violation of sanitary law, and does not evince good sense.—[F. D. Curtis, in Rural New Yorker.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

—The potato market is well stocked.

—Eggs have advanced in city markets.

— The soiling system does away with many fences.

— The crop prospects in the South are excellent.

— A Jersey farmer has three acres in sunflowers.

— Tobacco grows wild in various parts of Nevada.

— The rice crop of this country is unusually large.

— Cultivation without manure is stimulant without food.

— Grain is less injured by dry weather than is often supposed.

—Arcola, Ill. is the largest broom-corn centre in the United States.

— Potato blight occurs most frequently in warm, moist weather.

—In the Australasian colonies there are over seventy-six million sheep.

—Frost has done very considerable damage in the northwestern States.

— The seeds of common weeds have more vitality than those of plants.

— Immigration has fallen off forty per cent. as compared with last year.

— The boll worm has made its appearance in the cotton belt of Alabama.

—Broom-corn cutting commences usually about the middle of August.

— The evil of trotting horses is the gambling attendant upon all the races.

— Sugar has been made from maples four-teen years old from the seed.

— The English sparrow is voted an intolerable nuisance by the majority.

—Iowa farmers have found dairying more profitable than grain growing.

— The ice-water remedy for cabbage worms has been pronounced a failure.

— The first bale of this year's California hops has arrived in New York.

—Rust has done considerable damage to the bean crop in Maine this season.

— Barb wire fences are cruel, and would not be used were they not so cheap.

— Lots of cleaning up of fences and drains should be attended to this month.

— Remedies for blight in pear trees and yellows in peaches would be great boons.

— Four hundred sailing vessels are employed in the wheat trade of the Pacific coast.

—Prospects are that there will be less than an average crop of onions this season.

—The Colorado bug has almost caused a potato famine in the province of Quebec.

— The safe rule in farming is not to put all the eggs into one basket, as the saying is.

— The number of sheep in Saxony has fallen from 371,689, in 1861, to 149,037 in 1883.

— Wheat with a soft straw is more apt to be injured by the Hessian fly than any other.

—Wheat, barley and hay are the only satisfactory crops in Great Britain this season.

—Honey should be kept in the dark or it will granulate; bees work in the dark hives.

— Most old orchards need manure, and the time to apply it is late in summer or in the fall.

— There is a general belief among farmers that good wheat cannot be grown after beans.

— Hedges, which many claim ought to substitute fences, are costly and entail much labor.

— Corn will not ripen successfully in Great Britain, nor will tomatoes to any great extent.

— Certain herds are better adapted to certain climatic conditions and soils than are others.

— Whether nitrogen is obtained by plants from the air or not has long been a moot question.

— Some of the best sorts of pears rot at the core if left on the tree until the fruit begins to turn.

—The practice of seeding alone with grass in the spring is being adopted more and more each year.

—Michigan celery is being received in Boston, but has not the crispness of the home-grown article.

— Turnips do not do well in many portions of Lower Canada, owing to the ravages of the turnip-fly.

— The fences of this country have cost millions of dollars, and many of these fences are unnecessary.

— The recent sale of Jerseys in New York, the prices obtained show that this breed is still in high favor.

— Much of the barley this year is badly stained and some is sprouted. It should be ground up for stock.

—In Hungary the breeding of merinos has diminished nearly twenty-five per cent. during the past three years.

— A farmer in Plympton, Plymouth County, has begun the cultivation of peanuts, and thus far has had good success.

— Rye may be sown any time this month for pasture or soiling; rye is not liable to attacks from the Hessian fly.

— The tile draining of land should be looked upon as a permanent investment, as well-laid tile will practically last forever.

— Many horses have a habit of sleeping standing; it is not a good one, and horses should be broken of it, if possible.

— Trees on the outside of an orchard are usually more prolific, there is more sunlight and air and the roots have a freer range.

— Putting fancy cattle into condition for competition at fairs often results in weakened constitutions. It has been carried to excess.

—The twelfth annual convention of the National Butter, Cheese and Egg Association will be held in Chicago on November 10 and 14.

— One of the principal advantages of fall transplanting of trees is that it is a season of greater leisure to the farmer than the spring.

— The Lower Canadian horse is tough —he has to be, or he would not come through the neglect and exposure to which he is subjected.

—Many English farmers practise shearing their early lambs in midsummer, and claim that a greater growth of carcass is obtained thereby.

— The system of judging at fairs is often very faulty, one cause being that there are too many judges. One in each class should be enough.

— More attention should be paid to teaching young horses to walk fast than is done. A fast-walking horse is a desideratum not often met with.

— Churning sweet cream is not considered a good method by many leading authorities—the better plan being to allow the cream to ripen somewhat.

— The wool sales in Boston in one week recently reached the large quantity of 6,768,000 pounds, of which only 170,000 pounds were foreign wool.

— Much has been written of polled cattle, still for fancy breeders the removal of the horns from the head of a cow certainly lessens the animal's beauty.

—Potatoes dug in clear weather and thoroughly dried in the sun will keep in much better condition in the bins than those that have not been sun-dried.

—Several years since a gardener discovered that by planting his squash seeds in earth that had a layer of coal ashes above and below it the vines were not molested by cut worms.

— It would seem that there is a certain amount of acidity in ensilage which must produce an effect upon the stock fed upon it. If the acidity is in excess, the effect can not be beneficial.

—Texas blue grass is said to equal the blue grass of Kentucky, but differs from it in furnishing pasturage from November until May, while the Kentucky grass is green from February to June.

— A cool, deep and rich soil is indispensable to success in the culture of herbaceous plants and bulbs. Especially is this true of lilies and other bulbs that are usually set out at this season of the year.

— An agricultural journal is a record of the experiences and experiments of farmers. In agricultural methods there is much dissimilarity, so that what succeeds in one locality may not do so in another. It is in the exercise of judgment guided by experience that the farmer must rely.

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.

STATE AND PROVINCIAL FAIRS

Alabama East, Eufaula	Nov. 25
Amesbury and Salisbury, Amesbury	Sept. 29, 30
American Institute, New York	Sept. 30, Dec. 5
California, Sacramento	Sept. 7, 19
Central Ontario, Hamilton	Sept. 21, 25
Connecticut, Meriden	Sept. 15, 18
Delaware, Dover	Sept. 28, Oct. 31
Illinois, Chicago	Sept. 14, 18
Illinois Fat Stock, Chicago	Nov. 10, 19
Indiana, Indianapolis	Sept. 28, Oct. 3
Iowa, Des Moines	Sept. 4, 11
Kansas, Lawrence	Sept. 7, 12
Kansas, Topeka	Sept. 14, 19
Kansas City (Mo) Fat Stock	Oct. 29, Nov. 4
Kentucky, Lexington	Aug. 28, 29
Louisville, Louisville	Aug. 15, Oct. 24
Maine, Lewiston	Sept. 21, 25
Maryland, Hagerstown	Oct. 20, 23
Massachusetts Horticultural, Boston	Sept. 15, 18
Michigan, Kalamazoo	Sept. 14, 18
Milwaukee, Industrial	Sept. 2, Oct. 17
Minneapolis, Industrial	Aug. 31, Sept. 5
Minnesota, St. Paul	Sept. 7, 12
Mississippi Exposition, Aberdeen	Oct. 19
Mississippi Stock Breeders, Meridian	Oct. 26
Montana, Helena	Aug. 24, 29
Nebraska, Lincoln	Sept. 11, 18
New Hampshire, Manchester	Sept. 21, 24
New Jersey, Waverly	Sept. 14, 18
New York, Albany	Sept. 10, 16
North Carolina, Raleigh	Oct. 12, 17
Ohio, Columbus	Aug. 31, Sept. 4
Ontario Provincial, London	Sept. 7, 12
Oregon, Salem	Sept. 21, 26
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia	Sept. 27, Oct. 7
Rhode Island, Providence	Sept. 21, 25
St. Louis, St. Louis	Oct. 5, 10
St. Louis Exposition	Sept. 9, Oct. 24
South Carolina, Columbia	Nov. 10, 13
Toronto, Industrial	Sept. 8, 18
Tri-State Toledo, Ohio	Sept. 7, 12
Vermont, Burlington	Sept. 7, 11
Virginia, Richmond	Oct. 21, 23
West Virginia, Wheeling	Sept. 7, 12
West Virginia Central, Clarksburg	Sept. 22, 25
Wisconsin, Madison	Sept. 7, 11

Maine State and County Fairs.

Maine State Fair, Lewiston	Sept. 21, 25
Eastern Maine, Bangor	Sept. 2, 4
Cumberland, Portland	Sept. 8, 10
Aroostook, North, Presque Isle	Sept. 10, 11
Franklin Central, Strong	Sept. 16, 17
Penobscot, West, Exeter	Sept. 29, 30
Scarboro', Cape Elizabeth	Sept. 22, 25
Camb. Far Club, West Cumberland	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Somerset, West, Madison Bridge	Oct. 1
Penobscot, North, Lincoln	Sept. 30, Oct. 2
Corinna, N Newport, etc., Corinna	Sept.
Knox, North, Washington	Sept. 6, 8
Gray Park Ass., Gray	Oct. 7, 8
Somerset, North, Bingham	Sept. 8, 9
East Somerset, Hartland	Sept. 15, 16
Lincoln, Damariscotta	Oct. 6, 8
Somerset Central, Skowhegan	Sept. 29, Oct. 1
York, Biddeford	Sept. 15, 17
Franklin, Farmington	Oct. 6, 8
Kennebec, Readfield Corner	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Knox, Rockland	Sept. 22, 25
North Penobscot, Lincoln	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Oxnipee Valley Union, Cornish	Sept. 29, Oct. 1
Oxford, Society's Grounds	Sept. 29, Oct. 1
Sagadahoc, Topsham	Oct. 13, 15
Shapleigh and Acton, Shapleigh	Oct. 6, 8
Washington, Pembroke	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
West Oxford, Fryeburg	Oct. 6, 8
West Penobscot, Exeter	Sept. 29, 30

New Hampshire State and County Fairs.

Cheshire, Keene	Sept. 23, 25
Oak Park, Greenfield	Sept. 29, Oct. 2
Rochester, Rochester	Sept. 29, Oct. 1
Suncook Valley, Pittsfield	Oct. 7, 8
Upper Coos and Essex, Colebrook	Sept. 23, 24

Vermont County Fairs.

Addison, Middlebury	Sept. 1, 3
Battenkill Valley, Factory Point	Sept. 23, 25
Caledonian, St. Johnsbury	Sept. 15, 17
Franklin, Sheldon	Sept. 1, 3
Lamoille Valley, Morristown	Sept. 22, 24
Orange, Bradford	Sept. 29, Oct. 1
Orleans, Barton	Sept. 22, 24
Poultney, Poultney	Sept. 1, 3
Rutland, Rutland	Sept. 15, 17
Springfield, Springfield	Sept. 22, 24
Western Vermont, Fair Haven	Sept. 22, 24
Winooski Valley, Waterbury	Sept. 15, 17
Wilmington, Wilmington	Sept. 30

Massachusetts County Fairs.

Amesbury and Salisbury, Newburyport	Sept. 29, 30
Barnstable, Barnstable	Sept. 29, 30
Berkshire, Pittsfield	Sept. 29, 30
Blackstone Valley, Uxbridge	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Bristol, Taunton	Sept. 29, 30
Deerfield Valley, Charlemont	Sept. 24, 25
Essex, Newburyport	Sept. 22, 23
Franklin, Greenfield	Oct. 1, 2
Hampden, Chicopee	Sept. 23, 24
Hampden East, Palmer	Sept. 22, 23
Hampshire, Amherst	Sept. 23, 24
Hampshire, Franklin and Northampton	Oct. 7, 8
Highland, Great Barrington	Sept. 29, 30
Hingham, Hingham	Sept. 29, 30
Hoosac Valley, North Adams	Sept. 22, 23
Housatonic, Great Barrington	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Hillside, Cummington	Sept. 29, 30
Marshfield, Marshfield	Sept. 15, 16
Martha's Vineyard, West Tisbury	Oct. 6, 7
Middlesex, Concord	Sept. 29, 30
Middlesex North, Lowell	Sept. 15, 16
Middlesex South, Framingham	Sept. 22, 23
Nantucket, Nantucket	Sept. 9, 10
Plymouth, Bridgewater	Sept. 15, 16
Spencer, Spencer	Oct. 7
Upton Farmers' Club	Sept. 16, 17
Union, Blandford	Sept. 16, 17
Worcester, Worcester	Sept. 24, 25
Worcester North, Fitchburg	Sept. 29, 30
Worcester Northwest, Athol	Oct. 6, 7
Worcester South, Sturbridge	Sept. 17, 18
Worcester West, Barre	Oct. 1, 2
Worcester North, Fitchburg	Sept. 29, 30

Rhode Island State and County Fairs

Agricultural, Newport	Sept. 15, 17
Washington, West Kingston	Sept. 15, 17
Woonsocket, Woonsocket	Sept. 15, 17

Connecticut State and County Fairs.

Chester, Chester	Sept. 30
Clinton, Clinton	Sept. 30
Fairfield, Norwalk	Sept. 15, 18
Farmington Valley, Collinsville	Sept. 15, 16
Hillside, Cummington	Sept. 29, 30
New London, Norwich	Sept. 29, 30
Southington, Southington	Sept. 29, Oct. 1
Union, Huntington	Sept. 23, 25
Waterbury, Waterbury	Sept. 29, 30
Westbrook, Westbrook	Oct. 7
Willimantic, Willimantic	Sept. 30, Oct. 2
Windham, Brooklyn	Sept. 29, 30
Connecticut State, Meriden	Sept. 15, 18
Tolland county, Rockville	Sept. 29, 30
Danbury, Danbury	Oct. 6, 10
Guilford, Guilford	Sept. 30
Harwinton, Harwinton	Oct. 6
Killingworth, Killingworth	Sept. 30
New Milford, New Milford	Oct. 1
Milford and Orange, Milford	Sept. 30
Pequabuck, Bristol	
Simsbury, Simsbury	Oct. 7, 8
Stafford, Stafford Springs	Oct. 8, 9
Suffield, Suffield	Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Union, (Somers, &c.,)

meeting adjourn it be to meet at two o'clock, and that the committee be requested to report at that hour if possible.

[Finally a motion was carried to adjourn to 1 30 o'clock.]

[*See next week's Ploughman for conclusion of the report.*

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, SEPT. 26, 1885.

☞ *Persons desiring a change in the address of their paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.*

The report on the first page of the Meeting of the Milk Producers' Association in the Hall of the *Ploughman* Building, will be found highly interesting reading. The debate over the price of milk to contractors for the coming six months was earnest and spirited, with the result which the reader will discover for himself. We cordially recommend the attentive perusal of this debate. If the great body of consumers still remain indifferent to appeals for co-operation with milk producers, they will stand convicted of indifference to what is of the highest personal to them. One thing, at any rate, appears to be made plain: that those who make all the profits on milk ought at least to supply a pure article, which is not the case now. The milk producers should by right be the masters of the situation, not the contractors; and they will be as soon as the consumers come forward and join hands with them.

THE BUSINESS outlook continues steadily favorable, the determination seeming to be on the part of merchants and manufacturers to hold fast to the gains already made, and advance as fast as circumstances may permit. The rate of interest for money holds up, and securities generally maintain their price, although there is no noticeable activity in the stock market, and money is not in a visibly increased demand. Nevertheless, it is plain to see that loans are increasing at the money centres, and this means nothing but a better demand for money. In New York, the local bank clearings are larger by sixteen per cent than they were for the same week last year, and as this is not due to speculation, which is light, it can be credited only to an improvement in legitimate business. Trade holds its own, and so does the produce market. Purchasers are coming forward to get their supplies, which they are taking in heavy quantities. Dry goods, woolens, boots and shoes, and iron are bought with readiness. The furniture trade is improving. Wool has gained three cents in the pound. Steel rails are better, a lot of three thousand tons bring $30 per ton, although that is not yet quoted as the regular rate. Wheat alone is depressed, but the prices for flour have stiffened, the reasons given being the holding back of wheat by the farmers and the expectation of a better export demand. Corn is lower, with the largest crop ever produced in the country.

MR. GLADSTONE has issued a pamphlet, ostensibly mapping out a course for the liberal party, yet so vague in respect to details as to have earned the title of a delphic utterance. It is called a most successful case of pamphleteering for that reason. The effect of it has been to bring into harmonious relations Hartington, Chamberlain, and Harcourt, the three heads of the liberal party under himself, who had up to this time been pulling apart, each with a large following in the party. The radicals were going with Chamberlain, the Whigs with Hartington, and the Conservatives and moderates were disposed to be led by Harcourt. Thus the liberal party were in a fair way of going to pieces. Mr. Gladstone's manifesto has suddenly healed the breaches and brought all together again. The liberal party of Great Britain is to-day a unit again. The submission—for it is really that—of these three public men is a most remarkable result of the issue of a pamphlet by the man who had formerly been their leader. Mr. Gladstone had been implored to save his party by taking charge of the present campaign for the election of a new parliament, and this is his response; but before he consented to make it he demanded that the three men above named should make complete submission. The belief generally prevails that Mr. Gladstone has consented to lead his party back to power, and then to retire permanently from public life.

THE FORESTRY CONGRESS.

This body of representative men has been convened in the city of Boston the current week, and the event is regarded by the public with much more than ordinary interest. The subject is one that has of late been widely treated by the press and in popular addresses, and has already gained a footing that entitles it to a front place among those which engage the public interest. The great and growing importance of our forests, as sources not only of the production of wealth but of its continued preservation, cannot be estimated as it really deserves. The statistics of the subject are simply immense. Take the railroad ties that are used in this country; the matches that are made; the holiday evergreens that find a ready use in so many houses; the woods that are variously used in the construction and ornamentation of houses; and the imagination is completely outstripped by the figures. It has been aptly said that we do not want to learn how to do without wood so much as how to obtain more for our increasing uses. Wooden houses are not about to give way to houses of stone and brick, and the time is likely never to come when the finishing with wood inside will be superseded.

Forests cannot be grown in a single season, like wheat, corn, oats, and potatoes; it requires much more forecaste and patience to bring trees to that stage at which they are serviceable in the industrial arts and for ordinary necessities. That furnishes the very reason why the subject has to be handled in a different way from those crops which mature from the seed and are gathered in a single year. The organization of planting societies in different States proceeds on this very fact. Then the public has had to be impressed with the truth, and it is one of the very largest importance, that it is not the owners of forests as a property who receive the chief or largest benefit from their protection and preservation; but it is farming districts, towns, and cities that are directly reached by their influence, and their prosperity depends in a very large degree upon them. Considerations like these were earnestly urged upon the convention that was held in this city. And it may be further urged that, instead of being a question of picturesqueness and ornament for a country, this question of the protection of our forests is one that concerns intimately the population and life of the country itself, including the question of its decay and desertion.

Although forestry as a science has made very much more progress in European continental countries than in our own, or even than in Great Britain, the reasons abound for its immediate development here, the age and character of our country urging it in the highest degree. In Europe, it is made profitable by right legislation sustaining pecuniary investment in this direction. There is hardly the most diminutive kingdom or state that does not possess its hundreds of thousands of acres of forest lands. The census tells us that ten years ago there were less than 800,000 acres of woodland in Massachusetts, while the kingdom of Hanover had some 200,000 acres more. The latter receives from its forests an annual income of $850,000. This only goes to show that when the supreme authority of a State undertakes a business of such a character, it is sure to arrive at far more successful results than any number of individuals can, and far more rapidly. And the work is accomplished, too, with vastly more general satisfaction and stronger assurances of permanency. Nevertheless, our system of government being so different both in form and spirit from those of the Old World, the subject is attended with its natural difficulties.

In the course of an intelligent discussion of this particular point, the Boston Advertiser is free to admit that there are certain advantages in the State's assumption of the necessary cost of maintaining forests, and that will not fail to be considered in the course of any serious discussion of the question before a forestry congress. Almost every State, it remarks, now holds sinking funds. The investment of these funds is always a matter of difficulty. To invest the sinking funds in the State's own securities is but to pay with the right hand the debt of the left. And the same treasurer, who is trying to keep the interest on his hands low, for the sake of the State credit, is trying to keep it high for the benefit of its sinking fund.

The suggestion, at this point, is made that in certain instances a State might find it wise to place a part of its sinking fund in real estate growing up to forests. In the course of twenty-five years such real estate would be worth much more than the desolate land is worth to-day, with the interest on the cost of it added. The State would not need the money until the sinking fund wanted it for the payment of the debt for which it is contracted; and since the trees would be all the time growing and timber be growing dearer, the State's investment would be becoming all the time more profitable.

INSECT MUSIC.

The Indian lays his ear to the earth and catches sounds that lose their track to him through the air. So, if we withdraw our attention from ourselves and give it to the teeming world in which we are content to dwell with such a faulty consciousness, we shall hear, on any summer day and even into the autumn, songs and sounds which will astonish and delight us with their suggestions of populousness. Instead of feeding on the conceit that we alone possess the solitude, we shall discover that it is shared by a multitude of little creatures, pensioners on the same bounty that provokes our own daily gratitude.

Insect life swarms everywhere in the summer; in the open field, down in the damp meadow, in the wood, on the shores of the pond. And the low strain of music, variety in monotone, forms the supplement to the chorals of the birds, scarcely less necessary to the perfection of the harmony than they. It is to be noticed that after the singing of the birds ceases in midsummer, when their young are reared and sent their ways, the music of the insects begins. They take up the tale where the feathered gentry leave it off. It would be a sad break in the scale, an oppressive silence in the very midst of the harmony, if there were no voices to succeed the joy of the birds, but just now so exuberant. They, to be sure, are not wholly mute; but they no longer testify their enjoyment of the little gift of life by stated caroling at sunrise and sunset. It is their silent noonday time. It is the bee and the locust that are making the music; the bird is silent in his swing.

The associations all go with the summer. If this pastoral concert were to be struck up two and three months earlier, it would produce no such effect, but would be as much out of time and tune as the whetting of the scythe in October instead of latter June. These pipings, and ditties, and overtures, and orchestral performances in the grass, fit into the sensations of the flush summer time, and into none other. They are the recitations of a feeble folk that go skipping and crawling about unperceived in the tropical jungle of the grass stems, but are gifted with an instrumental power for music out of all proportion to their insignificant anatomy. Then, too, the atmospheric conditions are exactly right for the largest possible amplification of their concerted sounds. There is just that stillness at noonday and at night which makes their shrill little minstrelsy more impressive than would be even the louder singing of choirs of birds.

There are the humming swarms of flies glaneing hither and thither in the sun in their summer-day uniforms; the bees, droning their bagpipes around the purple tuft of a thistle, and half smothering their musical joy in the bed of brilliant down in which they roll and tumble; the crickets, winding up their little clocks and letting rapidly run down again in the grass, or sawing at their tiny fiddles in perfect time one with another; the locusts, shrilling their sharp rhyme of the heat with their resounding cymbals and Indian drums; the katydid, practising thus early for her autumnal harmonies in the galleries of the sycamores and elms with her viol of three strings; the little wanderer in the wilderness of grass that grinds its hurdy-gurdy in the hot forenoons, and all the while cries "*Tch! tch!*" to catch your attention—these are some of the individual performers in a multitudinous orchestra, which together turns out what seems, uninterpreted, the merest monotony of sound offered by the outer world. There is the music of the horn, the fiddle, the cymbal, and the drum in this harmonious company, and they sit down before the listening world to play out their parts with all the resoluteness of a practised band.

It is remarkable how sensitive these little creatures are to the changes in the weather; you get no symphonies from them when the atmosphere is not right for their instrumentation. If a fog descends from the hills and blankets the fields and meadows, instantly they become mute; they all appear to understand the suggestion as clearly as if a leader had visibly flourished his baton before their eyes commanding silence. Their music, too, is full of the suggestions only of peace; it is pastoral; it winds in and out of the secret chambers of the heart; the concerts of the frogs are pitched on a different key, that has a war-note in it, which Hower himself did not fail to detect, and which stands historically illustrated in the midnight cries of the ancient frogs of Windham. The sounds of insects soothe. They harmonize with the undertone of the human spirit. At noon, as you seat yourself under the wall, in the shade of a glossy-leaved young walnut, you may readily be transported to the realm of dreams. The very landscape takes on the expression which their notes bring to the surface of the soul. It is, in the main, one of sadness, because altogether on a minor key; but the melancholy is a pleasing one, and we are apt to return to its enjoyment frequently.

At evening, or in the deeper stillness of the night, it is as nearly the voicing of the heart's interior wish as any single combination of sounds could well be made. The time—the darkness—the silence that broods over the world—all fitly conspire to make it gently impressive. It seems then to be just the strain for our naturally subdued feelings, a sort of lament for what has never yet come to pass in our secret hopes; a requiem for what is over and gone; a pensive cadence answering consciously and unconsciously to the craving moods of the unsatisfied heart. So little a creature in the weeds and grass is able to draw out the hidden characteristics of the nature.

All this may seem idle to many persons, who may even esteem one's liking for such dull companionship a harmless bore. It is only because they fail to detect the life and abounding suggestiveness of it from a want of cultivated sympathy. We will still keep to the fields and endure what they cannot. The measure of activity with our thought shall be what most truly touches the interior life, which is all there is to our living. Shakespeare said truly:—

"There is in Nature nothing base or mean,
But only as our natures make it so."

Few aids to contemplative thought are so efficient, in their season, as the insects which are popularly despised. They make "expressive silence" yet more expressive. We do not require to know them according to the nomenclature of science, although such a knowledge inevitably brings us into a still closer intimacy. It is enough to realize the subtle power of their pensive music, from morning till night and from night to morning again, without pretending to an acquaintance with Linnæus, or Say, Leconte, or Harris, and the marvellous revelations they have to make. We need not have much familiarity with coleoptera, hemiptera, orthoptera, lepidoptera, and all the rest, or of the distinctions between beetles and bugs, net-wings and vein-wings to understand the depth of those feelings which the insect tribe in the fields and on the trees is capable of stirring at once so pleasantly and so profoundly.

AGRICULTURE OF MAINE.

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Maine State Board of Agriculture for the year 1884 is a most interesting volume, prepared by Secretary Z. A. Gilbert, and published by legislative authority. It opens with a double list of the officers of the Board for 1884 and 1885. The review of the work of the year on the farms of the State fairly presents the agricultural condition of the State. It shows a steady increase of the public confidence in farming as a business which in its turn is the means of introducing methods calling for the employment of more labor and capital, and results in an increased production of important staple products. The general average of production by the soil for the year was but little below the accepted standard. Grass fell off from the yield of the two previous years, the aggregate crop for 1884 being 1,038,542 tons, which is about what was given in the census of 1880 taken by the United States government. The haying weather last year was extremely unfavorable The farmers of Maine appear to appreciate the value of the corn crop more and more every year, the area devoted to it continually extending. About five million cans of sweet corn were put up, the demand temporarily falling off.

The aggregate crop of yellow corn is estimated at 1,200,000 bushels. The potato crop was not as large per acre as in the previous year, and the total crop outside of Aroostook county was not equal to that of the year previous. But in Aroostook county the yield was up to an average, and the area is annually on the increase. The aggregate potato crop of the State was about 12,000,000 bushels, more than five millions of which were produced in Aroostook. The State never produced a better grain crop. The area in the several grain crops was as large as usual, and the yield per acre was at least 25 per cent. above an average. The oat crop of the State is set down at 3,500,000 bushels, wheat at 800,000 bushels, and barley at 350,000 bushels. The apple crop was an abundant one, and fully one-quarter more than an average. The data furnished will not supply a reliable estimate of the total crop. Bearing trees are rapidly increasing, and they are receiving better care from their owners; these two facts greatly increase the apple crop of the State. Maine fruit has earned an enviable reputation for keeping properties which gives it a market value second to no other. A large revenue was derived by the State last year from the fruit crop.

The live stock interests of Maine maintained their position last year, and, as the recent fair at Bangor showed, made very great and marked gains since. Prices of all kinds of live stock have slightly shaded off from those of last year. Wool being low, sheep raisers are looking more to mutton and lamb for an income from their flocks, and mutton sheep are in consequence fast getting the ascendency. The Merino flocks are not increasing so rapidly as in former years. The estimate is that the number of sheep fell off an estimated ten per cent. last year. The number of beet animals fed and sold in the State was also about ten per cent. less than the year before. The horse-stock interests of the State are maintained at their highest standard, showing them to be of great importance agriculturally. Choice breeding animals are now brought into the State in larger numbers than at any previous time. Pork products ruled low, the pig feeder receiving only meagre returns in the way of profit. Dairying is a growing interest. Cheese factories are multiplying in Aroostook faster than elsewhere, that county being specially adapted to this line of industry. A still further expansion of it is counted on in that quarter.

The prevailing conditions are peculiarly adapted to the creamery method of making butter. There were nine creameries in the State at the time of making this annual report, all of which are now making butter. Thus far, the quality of their product compares favorably with that of the product of similar establishments in other States, which is best shown by the readiness with which it finds a market. Taking the live-stock and the dairying interests into consideration, it is easy to explain the growing tendency to feed hay rather than to sell it, the latter practice having largely prevailed in some sections of the State. The Maine farmers are finding out that, with good management, hay may be made to return as much to the owner when fed as when sold. The local agricultural societies of the State held successful exhibitions last fall, and financially are all sound. Many of them own parks with substantial fixtures. As a rule, the entire county societies are most successful; in smaller territorial exhibitions the exhibits are apt to be more limited in extent and variety, and the financial transactions of less account. The Bangor Fair has shown that Maine is a large agricultural territory, and that stock and soil products are ample for the perfect equipment of the two existing State Societies.

GOVERNOR HILL'S ADDRESS TO THE FARMERS.

GOVERNOR HILL OF NEW YORK delivered an address on the agricultural fair grounds in Lowville, in that State, last week, to a very large body of people. He said he approved of these fairs as holidays, of which we have too few in this country. He thought if there were more of them the people would be happier and better. What they observe at agricultural fairs elevates and educates them as travel does. He reminded his hearers that the first agricultural fair in Lewis county was held in October, 1821, in that same village of Lowville, and that one has been held every year since. Much of the prosperity of the agriculturists of that locality he ascribed to the effects of the fairs that had been held. There are nearly 4000 farms in the county, averaging over seventy-four acres each. Only ten counties in the State equal Lewis county in the amount of milk produced. Referring to the life of farmers and farmers' families, he said that as a rule the farming population represented, more than any other class, the manhood of America. As early as 1812, a fine of $10 was imposed on any farmer in the county who let Canada thistles go to seed. This evidently had a good effect on the husbandry of the county. The farmer of to-day, he remarked, must be acquainted with a little of everything. He must have a knowledge of mechanics and chemistry. Old implements of farming are passing away, giving place to improved machinery, and steam is taking the place of laborers in the field.

The State, he said, is doing much for agriculture. As an illustration of it he described the experimental farm that is maintained by the State in Ontario county. Expensive as it is, it is doing great things for the agricultural interests of the State, and no right-minded citizen begrudges the expense. The Governor spoke of the growing evil of the adulteration of food and of many of the necessaries of life. Competition, he said, is so great that almost every article in daily use is adulterated. He maintained that the people should be protected by vigorous laws, compelling a statement to be stamped on or attached to such productions, showing their true ingredients, or guaranteeing the quality, purity, or genuineness; or else in some other appropriate manner the people should be saved from imposition, and that any violation of such laws should be punished as a crime. Cheap transportation, he said, is a problem which is to be solved in the near future—a problem of great interest to the producers, the forwarders, the consumers, and the tax-payers. He congratulated his hearers on the visible signs of returning prosperity, and that the depression of the past few years is passing away. The triumphs of peace are to be seen in the happiness and contentment of the people, in the aggregate wealth, in the spread of education, and the increase of our resources. The country's prosperity, he said, does not depend on the success of business in great cities; the springs of commercial prosperity rise far away from the great centres of business; like the rills that fill the great ocean, they rise deep in the country.

In his opening address at the American Forestry Congress in this city, on Tuesday, President Higley said that meetings of farmers' clubs and local societies throughout the country had aroused much enthusiasm and laid the foundations of what is to be a grand system of forestry, suited to the needs and conditions of this new world. He spoke impressively of the effects of the removal of forests. For instance, in central New York there were numerous ponds which formerly furnished power for mills; now they are dry, or only stagnant pools at best, the dams decayed, the mills deserted. The spring comes later. Young cattle used to be turned out early in April, but now it is much later. In the spring the warm rain melts the snow, and sudden floods carry away bridges, dams, houses, and other property. The Connecticut and Hudson rivers are lower than formerly; the Schuylkill is so much affected near its head waters by the destruction of forests that the water supply of Philadelphia is seriously threatened. Trees and forests are far from being dead property. The cultivation of trees in Nebraska ranks next to the raising of stock. For a hundred and fifty years forestry in Europe has been under government patronage. The figures presented by the speaker are crowded with instruction for us. The estimated profits from forests in this country are 800 million dollars a year, while the annual lost by fire is twenty-five and one-half millions.

THE MARSHFIELD FAIR.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

The Marshfield Agricultural Society held its nineteenth annual exhibition Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Sept. 16, 17, 18. The weather was very fine, and the gathering of the people in large numbers for social intercourse and to witness the fruits of the season's labors and to take council for the future, make the present one of the best in the history of this society.

The vegetables presented one picture of complete success in that department, Scituate, as usual, leading in the great variety.

The increase in the quality of the farm animals is a marked feature of this fair.

Special attention is paid to the poultry department, and the Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rock and Leghorn and Cochin fowls were witnessed by thousands who are constantly turning their attention to this industry.

In the upper hall were displayed the fruits and domestic articles, including the artistic, the fancy, the mechanical, and the flowers which deserve special mention. The very fine cranberries of Joseph Weston of Duxbury, the butter and cheese of our constant contributors, the preserves which tempt the sick and the invalid, containing the concentrated essence of our best fruits. The strolling florist, too, holds his thoughts near the *great heart of nature*. Mr. Wentheoe of Marshfield, brings a fine collection of native flowers: the golden-rod, the evening primrose, the cardinal flower and the field daisies. The background of Japanese lilies made a large display, one to be remembered, "a joy forever." The largest display of grapes were by L. S. Richards of Marshfield; and all the contributors in this department were creditable and evidence of care and thought.

The dinner hour promptly brought five hundred in number to that number of plates, filled with substantial fare furnished by Mr. Damon, long at the head of our Marshfield dinners.

Many were obliged, unfortunately, to seek fare outside for want of room. Mr. Baker the President, gave an interesting statement of the history of the society. The handling of nineteen years ago has grown strong and vigorous. Its inspiring elements have been hope and faith and work. Culture and a higher standard and improved methods have been in the main our constant endeavor.

Mr. Brooks, delegate from the State Board of Agriculture, offered words of congratulation and encouragement.

Hon. John D. Long spoke with great force on the general subject of agricultural and mechanical industry. All felt that he is the true friend of the farmer, the lover of Marshfield, and the whole country.

With few exceptions, unpleasant, which are inevitable at all very large gatherings, the Marshfield fair for 1885 may fairly be marked as a complete agricultural, moral and financial success. G. J. P.

—Sea gulls along the coast of Long Island bring from fifty to seventy-five cents apiece for their feathers. Then, of course, buyers are gulled into believing they have got live-geese feathers. Not so very new an industry.

OCTOBER MAGAZINES.

☞ *Harper's Monthly*, for October, has for its frontispiece illustration "She Stoops to Conquer," from a drawing by E. A. Abbey, followed by a second paper on Labrador, with numerous illustrations; Great American Industries, third paper; A Glass of Beer, with illustrations; "Dimidium Facti," a poem; Back-Yard Studies, illustrated, by Wm. Hamilton Gibson; East Angels, part tenth; When Evening Cometh On, a poem; a Model State Capital, with illustrations from photographs, being an elaborate description of Hartford, Conn., by George Parsons Lathrop; A Priest of Doorga, a story; Our Public Land Policy; The Message of the Rose, a poem; She Stoops to Conquer, by Oliver Goldsmith, thirteen illustrations, continued from the January number; Mexican Politics, with portraits; A Puritan Indeed, a sketch, illustrated; When Day Meets Night, a poem; Indian Summer, a novel, part four, by W. D. Howells; and the Editorial Department, conducted by George William Curtis and Charles Dudley Warner. A truly brilliant number.—For sale by Cupples, Upham & Co.

☞ *The Popular Science Monthly*, for October, offers the following table of contents: New Chapters in the Warfare of Science, first paper; The Doctrine of Comets, by Andrew D. White; The White Ant, a Theory, illustrated by Professor Henry Drummond, F.R.S.E.; The Early Study of Plants, by Eliza A. Youmans; On the Solar Corona, by William Huggins, F.R.S.; The Relations of Railway Managers and Employes, by Dr. W. T. Barnard; Tommasi-Crudeli on the Reclamation of Malarious Countries; The Energy of Life Evolution, illustrated, by Professor E. D. Cope; "The Metaphysical Society," by R. H. Hutton; A Study of Recent Earthquakes, by M. A. Daubree; The Trading-Rat, by Mrs. E. D. W. Hatch; Tissue-Selection in the Genesis of Disease, by W. Henry Kesteven, M. R. C. S.; Sketch of Professor H. A. Newton, with portrait; Editor's Table — Official Science at Washington; Literary Notices; Popular Miscellany; and Notes.—For sale by Cupples, Upham & Co.

☞ *The Atlantic Monthly*, for October, contains the following: The Princess Casamassima, Book First, chapters Four to Seven, by Henry James; The First Abbe Galant; Tacita, by James B. Kenyson; Childhood in English Literature and Art, second paper, by Horace E. Scudder; A Country Gentleman, chapters 30–33, by Mrs. Oliphant; The First Guest, by Helen Gray Cone; The Ogre of Ha Ha Bay, by Octave Thanet; The New Portfolio, by Doctor O. W. Holmes; "Upon the Tree Top," by Olive Thorne Miller; On Horseback, fourth paper, by Charles Dudley Warner; Recent American Fiction, a critical notice of several novels; Hunting Trips of a Ranchman; The Congo Free State; The Contributors' Club; and Books of the Month.—For sale by Cupples, Upham & Co.

☞ *Godey's Lady's Book*, for October, has The Lady of Lyons, a steel engraving, for a frontispiece, and the number is overflowing and brilliant with fashion plates, patterns, designs etc. The literary matter is of the high order of attractive excellence which has specially given the new start to Godey. The writers are none but well known and popular ones, whose productions are an ornament to the pages of the magazine securing them. The Book is indeed a Lady's Book, and continues to be even more so than it ever was before. Household and fashion matters predominate.—For sale by Cupples, Upham & Co.

PERSONAL.—Hon. Daniel Needham has been ill at his residence in Groton, for the past two weeks; but he so far recovered as to be able to keep an engagement to deliver the address at the Lunenburg Agricultural Fair, on Tuesday, the 22d inst.

READ AND RUN.

—Bicycles are being used for the first time in the Austrian army.

—In the United States and Canada there are now 5061 Bands of Mercy.

— The inscription on the face of the new postal card is justly criticised.

— The captain of the English cricketers, now in this country, is a clergyman.

—The victor yacht Puritan is to be sold at auction in New York this week.

— A Nantucket woman's wart is said to have been taken off her nose by faith cure.

—Gambling houses in Boston are raided of late by the police chiefly with the aid of the axe.

—The annual Salisbury Beach gathering occurred on Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

—Macon, Ga., advertises its perfect ability to serve hot Boston baked beans every Sunday morning.

—The Evening Record of this city has its shy at the farmers for being such habitual grumblers.

— Dr. Beecher got the better of his hay fever this year, according to custom, by going to the mountains.

—The health department is following up Cambridge milkmen, and finds evidence of extensive adulteration.

— The season's crop of wheat in the United Kingdom is now reported above the average, both in quantity and quality.

— All the other crops are so abundant this year that they promise amply to compensate for the nation's loss on wheat.

— Nillson sings for the first time in Berlin on the 12th of next month, before the imperial family. She will appear in Faust.

—The women are coming forward to be taxed for voting purposes, in Boston and neighboring towns, in increasing numbers.

—A Mormon riot occurred in the East End of London, in consequence of the offensive proselyting efforts of Mormon missionaries.

—Mrs. Betsey Moody of Cape Elizabeth, Me., who is quite low, is 105 years old, and believed to be the oldest person in the State.

—The question is going about some, What is the reason that no woman in the country is qualified to be the President of Vassar College?

— The death of the colossal elephant, Jumbo, is spoken of by a contemporary as a public calamity, for all alike were interested in seeing him.

— Forty-two persons are reported to have died in Hingham at the age of ninety years and upward, with the century that ended in 1827.

—A "really cultivated" man has been heard to speak of "the ladies' prison at Sherborne." There is a prison for "gentlemen" over at Charlestown.

—Cut-off hair is reported as the latest style for ladies of all ages. Pope never need have perpetrated his famous "Rape on the Lock" in an age that tolerates such a rumor.

—The elephant Jumbo's skeleton is to be preserved in the Smithsonian Institution, and his skin is to be stuffed and presented to the Barnum Museum of Natural History at Tufts College.

— Rev. Mr. Murray uses a stereopticon in his lectures, and shows a fac simile of his handwriting. After going through Canada, he proposes to lecture in the United States and in England.

— The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, which had its headquarters in Cleveland, O., has a membership of 17,000 engineers, and 294 sub-divisions in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

—The autumn season invariably has its joke on those who hurry back home from their outing as soon as September begins. A great many things wait for September, and even for October, to ripen.

—A spot selected in Atlanta, Ga., for a statue has been utilized for an artesian well, which causes a contemporary to remark that most statues in this country would look best if kept in a well of the old-fashioned sort.

—A Savannah historical society proposes a dance in order to raise funds for enlarging its library and thus its membership. Better get the funds together and dance afterwards, if enough funds could be raised to excite to the act of dancing.

— In a recent address, Mr. John Morley declared that the Parnell plan of separation for Ireland would be a disaster to Ireland, and a disgrace to England. Short of a separation, he was willing to make the utmost concession to Ireland.

☞ Hunt's Remedy is purely vegetable, and is made expressly for all diseases of the kidneys.

— Paper bed clothes are made at a factory in New Jersey. They are doubled sheets of manila paper.

☞ Extraordinary success everywhere. A sure cure for all kidney diseases is Hunt's Remedy.

—The Produce and Commercial Exchanges of Boston have consolidated.

☞ For early loss of physical power. A sure cure is found in Hunt's Remedy. Never fails.

— In some single cities of the Union, over five thousand windmills are manufactured, on an average, every year. Hundreds of thousands of them are at work in America.

From A. H. Davis, formerly editor of "Chronicle," Farmington, Me.

"I HAVE USED YOUR ADAMSON'S BOTANIC Balsam, and unhesitatingly pronounce it superior to any medicine of the kind I ever saw. It is simply invaluable as a household remedy for coughs, colds, and sore throat. I would not be without it."

— W. Matticu Williams thinks the conclusion is justified that "a drowned or suffocated man is not hopelessly dead so long as the bodily organs remain uninjured by violence or disease, and that the heart remains sufficiently liquid to be set in motion artificially and supplied with a little oxygen to start the chemical movements of life."

☞ To break up a Cold and Fever, use DR. WARREN'S BILLIOUS BITTERS.

— The only scarcity of wool is in the combing and delaine sorts.

☞ "100 Doses One Dollar" is true only of Hood's Sarsaparilla, and it is an unanswerable argument as to strength and economy.

MARRIAGES.

In Somerville, Sept. 21st, by Rev. A. E. Winship, Robert Lore, son of Judge Lore of Waltham, to Mabelle Clifton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Farnham of Somerville.

In Wakefield, Sept. 21st, by Rev. A. C. Nickerson, Joseph Warren Phinney to Priscilla Chase Morris.

In Winchester, Sept. 16th, by Rev. Charles R. Seymour, George F. Drew of Providence to M. Josephine Bolton of Winchester.

In Milton, Sept. 17th, by Rev. P. B. Davis, Arthur A. Hibbard to Grace A. Voce.

DEATHS.

In Boston, Sept. 19th, F. M. Mears, 42 years.

In Dorchester, Sept 17th, Mary W. Snow, daughter of Sophronia A. Snipps, 18 yrs. 3 mos. 16 dys.

In Milton, Sept. 18th, Mary, wife of John Swift, 27 years 3 months.

In Reading, Sept. 17th, Dea. M. M. Temple.

In Malden, Sept. 16th, Dr. William H. Aiken, 36 years 6 months.

In Framingham, Sept. 16th, Mrs. Hannah A. F. Hall, wife of the late Jason Hall, 79 years.

In East Bridgewater, Sept. 17th, Mrs. Catharine A. Sager, 70 years 7 months.

In Cohasset, Sept. 19th, Mrs. Myra Bennett, 76 years 6 months.

In Milton, Sept. 18th, Rose Greene, wife of Robert Bennett Forbes.

In Arlington Heights, Mass., Sept. 20th, Charlotte E., wife of Charles Hutchins, 46 years 5 months.

In Framingham, Sept. 20th, William R. Lawrence, M. D., 73 years.

In Chelsea, Sept. 20th, Rev. John T. Burrill, 80 years 6 months.

In Dorchester, Sept. 20th, Irene E., wife of Chas. W. Oliver, 36 years 6 months.

In Pittsberg, Sept. 21st, Matie E., wife of Charles F. Washburn, 27 years 11 months.

In Bedford, Sept. 19th, suddenly, Isaac P. Bacon, 76 years.

In Groton, Sept. 19th, Elizabeth R., wife of G. W. Putnam of Brooklyn and daughter of the late B. F. Edmands.

In Foxboro', Sept. 20th, Tryphana Crane, wife of Carmi Richmond, 74 years 7 months 21 days.

In Neponset, Sept. 21st, Betsey Wheeler, widow of the late James T. Wheeler, formerly of Rochester, 85 years 4 months 9 days.

Everybody's Air-Brake.

"Yes, sah," said Uncle Zack. "I'se watched it forty years an' its as I see: De fust of May an' Christmas day of de same year allers comes on de same week day."

Further conversation proved Uncle Zack a most incredulous person. Chancing to mention Dr. Carver's feat of breaking glass balls with a rifle, he said:

"I heard 'bout dat shootin' and knowed right off it wasn't squar'; dat was a Yankee trick, boss, sho's you born."

"What was the trick?"

"Dar was loadstone put into de glass balls, an' likewise onto de bullets; so when de bullet fly outen de gun, it an' de ball jes drawed together, which, in course, brokes de glass—dats de trick!"

Later, Uncle Zack observed a rope running along the side of the car.

"Boss, what's dat line fur?"

"To apply the air-brake in case of accident."

Then we had further to explain how the force of the brake was obtained, to which Uncle Zack responded:

"Look a here, boss, you sholy don't 'spect me to b'leve dat foolishness? Why, de biggest harricane whatever blowed couldn't stop dis train, runnin' forty mile a hour. An' you think I gwine to b'leave a little pipe full of wind under de kyars can do it? No, sah-ree!"

There are a great many Uncle Zacks who judge everything simply by appearances. The air-brake does not seem to be a very powerful thing, but power and efficiency are not necessarily equivalent to bigness and pretense.

Phillip Beers, Esq., who resides at the United States Hotel, New York city, and is engaged in raising subscriptions for the New York *World* Bartholdi pedestal fund, was once upbraided by a distinguished relative who was a physician, for commending in such enthusiastic terms a remedy that cured him of bright's disease eight years ago. He said: "Sir, has the medical profession, with all its power and experience of thousands of years, anything that can cure this terrible disorder?" No, no, that is true; there is no mistake about it but that Warner's safe cure *is* really a wonderfully effective preparation. The remedy is an "air-brake" that every man can apply, and this fact explains why it has saved so many hundreds of thousands of lives.—*Copyrighted. Used by permission of American Rural Home.*

SPARROW HAWK AND ENGLISH SPARROW.

[From Forest and Stream.]

Last Saturday I noticed a flock of English sparrows in the street before my house, engaged, as usual, in gorging themselves. Suddenly the flock seemed much alarmed, some cowered and others rose in haste as something shot down like a bullet and departed like a shadow, while one or two squeaks were all that told of another of bird-life's tragedies. The whole was so sudden, and my mind was so preoccupied, that I scarcely thought of what had transpired within forty feet of me. I resumed my writing, but was soon disturbed by a repetition of the disturbance. Taking a position for observation, I noticed a bird hovering in the air, making circles above the spot on which I knew the sparrows were gathered; I saw him suddenly dart through the air, and again I heard the squeak of the sparrow. The hovering bird was a pigeon-hawk, called also the sparrow hawk. The next day I saw a repetition of the scene, and there were by actual count ten of the hawks circling above their quarry. The sparrows seemed not sufficiently alarmed to leave the dangerous ground, but returned immediately after seeing one of their number borne away by the hawk. I really believe there was not one of the ten circling hawks that did not carry off a sparrow in his talons. These hawks are about the size of the bluejay—have about the same spread of wing. They seem not at all afraid of man. The "pigeon hawk" and the "sparrow hawk" are two distinct birds, but both are true falcons, and as there seems to be at least a probability that the English sparrow is among us to stay, may there not be a great deal of legitimate sport gotten out of it by training sparrow-hawks to catch it? Falcons were used long before any of the present generation's grandfathers were born. Why may not we use them to relieve us of a pest, and to contribute to our amusement at the same time?

— Butter in Scotland is lower in price than before in thirty years.

— The pioneer coffee grower in the United States is a woman.

— The best financial opinion asserts the inevitable downward tendency of the rate of interest.

☞ KNOW THYSELF, by reading the "SCIENCE OF LIFE," the best medical work ever published, for young and middle-aged men. apr11–y

— Harrison I. Smith of Northfield, Me., who died last week, was one of the largest farmers and stock owners in this section.

MODERN IMPROVEMENTS.—Among the many articles put forth in the interest of housekeepers, nothing has become more popular than JAMES PYLE'S PEARLINE. Five years ago it was scarcely known; since then it has found its way to all parts of the country. Its utility is acknowledged by all who try it, and, unlike most of the labor-saving compounds, experience has proved Pearline to be perfectly harmless to the most delicate fabrics, and we feel sure that no one will be without it after a fair trial.

— The poet—the "good gray poet," as he is called—Walt Whitman, was recently surprised by the present of a horse and pigeons, made him by his admirers, literary and dramatic.

☞ Ladies admire Ayer's Hair Vigor for the rich lustre it gives the hair. It restores color and promotes growth.

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BALDNESS.

If you are troubled with a diseased scalp, if your hair is falling out, if it is weak and thin, or if you have become bald, your hair may be restored to its original healthful condition and color by the use of Hall's Hair Renewer. This efficient remedy combines the most desirable qualities of the best preparations for the hair, without the use of any objectionable ingredient. Mrs. Hunsberry, 344 Franklin ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., after a severe attack of erysipelas in the head, lost her hair so rapidly that she soon became quite bald. One bottle of Hall's Hair Renewer produced a new growth, as soft, brown, and thick, as in youth.

GRAY HAIRS

are honorable, when they are associated with advanced age, but to be prematurely gray is unpleasant, to say the least. If you cannot renew your youth, you may, at least, attain the appearance of it, by the use of Hall's Hair Renewer. Randolph W. Farley, Nashua, N. H., quite a young man, whose hair had become gray, like that of a very aged person, applied Hall's Hair Renewer, and now his locks are a beautiful brown, as in youth. He says: "The effects, in my case, from the use of Hall's Hair Renewer are truly marvelous." Mrs. E. Elliott, Glenville, W. Va., says: "One bottle of Hall's Hair Renewer restored my hair to its youthful color."

HALL'S VEGETABLE SICILIAN Hair Renewer

does not, nor does it contain any coloring matter whatever. It restores the hair to its natural color by exciting the scalp to a natural, healthful action, and is, also, an effectual remedy in cases of scalp disease. Walter Burnham, M. D., Lowell, Mass., says: "Having, by accident, seen Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer used for restoring the hair, where inveterate eruptions had resisted various kinds of treatment, I found not only was the hair restored to its natural beauty, but also the disease upon which it was operating was completely cured. I have since recommended the Renewer, frequently, and in similar cases, and always with the same success."

J. B. Duncan, Laredo, Texas, writes: "For a number of years my hair had been growing thinner, until at last I became quite bald. The use of two bottles of Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer has restored to my head a fine, healthy growth of hair." H. Errickson, 4 Chestnut st., Charlestown, Mass., writes: "When I commenced the use of Hall's Hair Renewer, the top of my head was perfectly bare. I am now using my fourth bottle, and my head is covered with a nice growth of new hair."

Hall's Hair Renewer,

PREPARED BY
R. P. HALL & CO., Nashua, N. H., U. S. A.
For Sale by all Druggists.

THE KEMP Manure Spreader.

IT SAVES TIME,
IT SAVES LABOR,
IT SAVES MONEY.

The Richardson Manufacturing Co
WORCESTER, MASS.

BUY YOUR CARPETS
DIRECT of the MANUFACTURERS.

We are offering a large assortment of CARPETS at the following low prices:

WILTONS,	$1.50	TAPESTRIES,	75c.
VELVETS,	$1.25	EX-SUPERS,	60c.
BRUSSELS,	$1.00	ENGLISH SHEET OILS,	$1.00

JOHN & JAMES DOBSON,
525 & 527 Washington St., Boston.

B. A. ATKINSON & CO.,

NASSAU HALL, 827 Washington St., cor. Common Street, and 24 Shawmut Ave., cor. Pleasant Street, BOSTON, MASS.
CORNER PEARL AND MIDDLE STREETS, PORTLAND, ME.

THE LARGEST HOUSE FURNISHING STORES IN NEW ENGLAND.
100,000 feet of floor room in the Nassau Hall Building is filled with all kinds of

USEFUL HOUSEHOLD GOODS,

which will be sold Cheap for CASH or on INSTALLMENTS.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT to the housekeepers of New England.—During the next 30 days we will sell a little more of household furnishings cheaper than ever before.

FURNITURE, CARPETS, BEDDING, STOVES, RANGES, &c.

Buy of the MANUFACTURERS and save one profit.

PARLOR FURNITURE (our own make).

Hair Cloth Parlor Suites, 7 Pieces, $35.00, $40.00, $45.00, $50.00 and $60.00, $75.00, $80.00, $100.00. Upholstered in Embossed Mohair Plush for $15 extra, 4 colors. Upholstered in Embossed Silk Plush for $25 extra, 4 colors. Upholstered in Silk Plush from $50.00 to $300.00. Also Suites in Fancy Coverings of Plushes and Upholstery Goods, and any person can select their own Suite from the thousands made to order, at same Prices. Chairs and Couches made to order, at same Prices. Our Factory is taxed to its utmost Capacity.

CHAMBER FURNITURE.

In this department we have an Enormous Line.
Ash Chamber Suites, at $20.00, $25.00, $30.00, $35.00 to $75.00.
Cherry Chamber Suites, at $30.00, $40.00, $50.00 to $100.00.

SOLID BLACK WALNUT CHAMBER FURNITURE.

No. 1 is a 10 Piece Marble Top Suite, nicely Moulded and Beaded, a beauty, $40.00.
No. 2 is a 10 Piece, Bevel Mirror, finely Polished, best Italian Marble Tops, $50.00.
No. 3 is one of the Handsomest Suites in the market, comprising 10 pieces, large Bevel Plate Mirror, large Table, extra Panelled, strong Particular, $60.00.
We have over 50 DIFFERENT PATTERNS, all set up on one floor to select from.

ALSO, A FULL LINE OF PINE PAINTED FURNITURE.

Mahogany Furniture.

A large lot of Odd Furniture—Odd sized Bedsteads, Cribs, Cradles, Car Beds, Cabinet Beds, Extra Beds, Bed Springs, Sofa Beds, Spring Beds, Feather Beds.

STOVES AND RANGES IN GREAT VARIETY.

In our stove department, some of the finest RANGES in America; a nice Range and Ware PARLOR STOVES in great variety, from $4.00 to $40.00.

Special pains have been taken in this Department.

CARPETS.

The Finest Line in New England, comprising Marquetts, Velvets, Body Brussels, Tapestry Brussels, Extra Supers, Ingrains, Oils, Oil Cloths in great variety of quality and price.

Body Brussels,	95 cts to $1.00.	Ingrains,	25c to $1.25.
Tapestry Brussels,	95 " 1.50.	Velvets,	95 " 1.50.

Wilton and Rugs.—An enormous quantity just received, selling at cost to produce.
Lace Curtains, Drapery Curtains, Poles, and Cornices all set up.
Sales Check with every purchase.—we want honest people for our customers. Send for our circular.
Everything sold will be recommended—we want honest people for our customers. Send for our circular.
Everything now for the Installment Business. Your Obedient Servants,

B. A. ATKINSON & CO.,

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American Forestry CONGRESS.

THREE DAYS' MEETINGS

At Horticultural Hall, Boston,
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,
Sept. 22, 23 and 24, 1885.

One of the most important questions agitating the public mind at this time is the cultivation and preservation of trees, and for years many well informed men have been endeavoring to direct attention to the matter. Four years ago the American congress was formed and much good has resulted. The annual meeting of the association is this year being held in Horticultural Hall, the congress being assisted by the Mass. Horticultural Society, the New England Agricultural Society, the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, and the Society for the Promotion of Agriculture. The local committee consisted of the following named gentlemen: William C. Strong, Chairman; Hon. Daniel Needham, John E. Russell, Geo. Noyes, Benjamin G. Smith, and Wm. H. Spooner.

The session opened Tuesday morning, September 22, and among those present were representative men from New York, Nebraska, Connecticut, Iowa, Florida, Washington, D. C., Roslyn, Quebec, and other places. The proceedings promise to be very entertaining and instructive, and the subject matter for discussion has attracted a large number of ladies.

Ex-President William C. Strong of the Mass. Horticultural Society called the meeting to order and introduced His Honor Mayor O'Brien, who welcomed the visitors in a cordial manner and expressed his pleasure in meeting the visitors. He hoped the meeting which had just been opened would enthuse the citizens of Boston on the subject of forestry so that they may not only unite in the placing of trees along our highways, but also result in aiding our friend Wright and other men in their endeavor to forward the preservation of the Middlesex Fells. Boston had done much lately in making public improvements, although ten years ago it would almost have killed a man to have mentioned our public parks; but soon after that a public park was made, and now there were many such parks, and in a few years our parks will make Boston famous as one of the prettiest cities in America. His Honor, in closing, again welcomed the visitors to the good old city of Boston.

President Higley of New York then said: I take great pleasure, on behalf of this congress, in your gratulatory remarks, Mr. Mayor, in welcoming us to this historic city. On behalf of the congress, it is fit and meet that we should recognize our obligations to the agricultural and horticultural societies of Boston and vicinity for the manner in which they have provided for our entertainment in this handsome hall.

President Higley then delivered his annual address:

President Higley's Address.

The subject that brings us together on this occasion from various sections of the United States and Canada, he said, has, within the past few years, grown to be recognized, by the leaders of public opinion in America and thinking men and women generally, as one of the greatest importance to the public welfare. The discussions of topics relating to forestry and the timber supply, in farmers' clubs, lumbermen's conventions, horticultural and agricultural societies, associations of scientists, and more than all in the meetings of the American Forestry Congress and local forestry associations, have awakened a deep and widespread interest in the subject, that in some sections has found expression in important action, and throughout America has laid the foundation, I believe, through the conviction of public opinion, for the onward progress of our cause. Its principles are bound to grow and strengthen until an American system of forestry, adapted to the conditions of the new world, shall be established and shall prevail in all the essentials of successful working, because necessity will compel it sooner or later. Of such vital importance to the people of the United States and Canada is the subject of cultivating and preserving the forests that it must soon command the serious attention of the national and State governments. Something, to be sure, has been done by way of legislation; a small start has been made through the efforts of a few thoughtful and patriotic men. But before such practical results can be obtained as we desire, the importance of forest preservation and forestry administration must become apparent to the majority of the people. This can be done only through public discussion, wise agitation, educating. Facts of history and personal experience are abundant and convincing as to the effects of deforesting and again of reforesting large areas upon the climate, the springs and streams, the fertility of soil, the various industries and the general prosperity.

With such a system of timber culture as Prussia possesses—perhaps the best in the world—China would have escaped those horrible famines which have in the past attacked some of her most densely populated districts and caused the destruction of millions of people, and imposed untold sufferings upon millions more, as well as the loss of a vast amount of treasure to the state.

There is abundant evidence in America of the effects of cutting off the forests. In central New York streams that thirty or forty years ago kept the ponds well filled for the saw-mill and grist-mill, and furnished a never-failing supply of running water for the farm, are now dry in summer, with the exception of here and there a stagnant pool. The dams decayed and washed away, the mills gone, and the once picturesque scene is changed to that of desolation.

For two years past the engineers of the water works department of Philadelphia have been making examinations of all possible sources of a suitable water supply for their city, and have lately discovered how seriously the Schuylkill, from which the water supply is now taken, has been affected by the destruction of forests around its head waters. Sixty years ago the Schuylkill's summer flow was estimated at 500,000,000 gallons a day. Measurements made from time to time showed a gradual diminution, until in 1874 the minimum flow was only 250,000,000 gallons per day. This is a well authenticated fact, and it is shown that the diminution has been caused by cutting the forests from the headwaters of the stream.

The people naturally live and calculate for the present, and are disposed to use this property belonging to themselves so as to derive from it the greatest present good. For the good of neighbors or the future welfare of the state they will hardly be induced to forego the advantages to be derived from the cutting of timber and the drainage of swamps, though they know that such cutting and drainage will eventually result in disaster to the country around. Nor would it be fair and equitable for the individual to suffer in his estate for the advantage of others, either in this or in future generations. The burden of sacrifice for the public good should be borne by all alike. But the interests of forestry make no such demand. On the contrary, we claim that a wise management of the forest areas connected with the farmers' estates and the maintenance of a due proportion of them through devoting to forestry purposes the new waste places of the farm, if need be, insure to the owner excellent returns for his labor and for the capital invested, a profit that compares favorably with that derived from the ploughed field. This becomes apparent when a fair money value is placed on all the wood and forest product used in many ways on the farm, as well as the timber that is cut for market. The timbered lot is not the dead property that it is often considered to be, and it is worthy the farmer's intelligent care and protection as a source of income.

In the New England and middle States forests may be grown with little expense and trouble. Fields worn out or abandoned, cleared land not fit for agriculture and yielding little or no pasture, can often be renewed by simply protecting them from browsing cattle and fires.

A farming country should have not less than twenty-five per cent. of its area in woodland. In general, outside the prairie States, this proportion can be set aside from lands of little or no real value for agricultural purposes. There is hardly a farm in New England of 100 acres that would not be greatly augmented in value by devoting this proportion of the cultivation and maintenance of woodland, and the same may be safely affirmed of every other portion of the country.

Statisticians have furnished us with alarming facts relating to the consumption of forestry products in this country and the consequent rapid decrease of our forest area.

The capital invested in the United States in the lumber business, *i. e.*, in the business of manufacturing lumber in 1880, was, according to the census return, $181,186,122. The total value of our lumber product for that year is given at $233,367,729, while the estimated value of the cord wood used for domestic purposes was $321,962,373.

The New England States had invested at the same time in the lumbering business $16,641,326, and produced a lumber product valued at $19,271,914. The value of the cord wood consumed for domestic purposes that year amounts to $16,242,801.

In addition to the contribution of our forests as above indicated, they suffer an enormous loss from fires and browsing animals. The large and rapidly increasing demands made upon our forests in the supply of railroad ties alone are impressively shown by Prof. Eggleston in his report on forestry issued last year.

The general awakening to the interests of forestry among the people of the originally wooded States came largely through the widespread publication, a few years ago, of the alarming facts relating to the destruction and fast disappearing of white pine forests of the United States and Canadas. When the people were convinced by the reports of the statisticians that the supply of this most valuable and extensively used timber would last but a few years at the rate of consumption going on, and that they would have to look ere long for other timber to take its place, active inquiry began as to our whole timber supply, the comparative value of the different kinds in the mechanic arts, how long these would last on the present basis of demand, and what the prospects were for the future.

We have no schools as yet in this country which provide for a systematic training in forestry. The time for this, perhaps, has not ripened. The foundation, however, has been laid through the establishment of a few experiment stations, the general agitation of the question by forestry, agricultural and horticultural associations and the public press.

Tree-planting on Arbor day for economic purposes, in the great West, has given to the prairie States many thousand acres of new forests, and inspired the people with a sense of their great value, not only for economic purposes, but for climate and meteorological purposes as well.

In 1862 the national government donated to the several States 9,600,000 acres of the public domain for the support of colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts. There are forty-two of these schools that have received their pro rata of these lands, or the right to them.

The national government still owns about 85,000,000 acres of forest lands. These are without effective protection against the depredations of lumbermen. Many hundred thousand dollars worth of timber is stolen annually and the destruction by fire is going on unchecked.

In this connection, and finally, I venture to suggest:

1. That action be taken by the congress with regard to securing appropriate legislation by the national and State governments.

2. That plans be devised and methods adopted for promoting forestry education in our institutions of learning for the continued spread and still more efficient celebration of Arbor day, and the organization of local forestry associations.

3. That special consideration be given to the relation of forestry to commerce, *i. e.*, railroads and navigable streams.

4. That steps be taken toward collecting and classifying reliable statistics in America, *i. e.*, the United States and Canada, relating to our forests, and making them a part of our annual report, stamped with the authority of this congress.

Further Proceedings.

Mr. George Noyes of Boston was elected temporary secretary, in place of Dr. F. Hough, deceased.

Mr. Bernard E. Fernon, the secretary, then read his report, from which it appeared that the work of the society had suffered somewhat for lack of funds.

The treasurer's report showed that there was a balance in hand of $16.21.

The chairman, in reply to a question, said the society was greatly assisted by other associations, and did not so much rely upon funds as upon enthusing the people of the country. The entrance fee is $2 and the subscription $2 per annum until $10 had been paid, which constitute a life member. There were no paid officers and no expenses paid other than for printing a d postage.

Dr. Eggleston of Washington, D. C., William Little of Canada, and C. L. Merriam of New York, were appointed a committee to draw up resolutions of condolence on the death of the late secretary, Dr. Franklin Hough. After the appointment of the regular committees the congress adjourned until two o'clock.

The afternoon session was called to order by President Warren Higley, when the secretary read communications. The first was from Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, who, while regretting being unable to attend the congress, said he hoped the people would allow the country to retain "leaves enough to hide its nakedness, of which it is already becoming ashamed." Letters of apology were read from Prof. H. M. Seeley of Littleboro' College, Vt., Prof. G. H. Perkins of the University of Vermont, Gov. Harrison of Connecticut, Senator Warner Miller, chairman of the Forestry Committee of Congress, Gen. W. Ward, Hon. Charles F. Adams, Prof. C. K. Edward Adams of Cornell University, the Governor of Vermont and Mr. H. C. Putnam, a practical lumberman. All these letters expressed satisfaction with the object of the congress, and a hope that the session would result in success.

The committee appointed in the morning for that purpose offered a very graceful tribute to the memory of the former secretary, Dr. Franklin B. Hough, who was in his day one of the most able writers on the subject of forestry. Some of the gentlemen present spoke in high praise of the deceased gentleman and the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

America's Forests.

Rev. N. H. Eggleston, chief of the forestry division of the department of agriculture, Washington, read a paper giving some facts and figures in regard to the forests of this country and their consumption. In order to further explain the subject, he had a large chart on the platform.

Work of Forest Fires.

Mr. Little, a practical lumberman from Montreal, expressed the great pleasure he had in listening to the paper of Mr. Eggleston. He said two years ago, when in London, he wrote a letter to the London Times on the subject of forestry, and then a gentleman came out and said that it was no use to cultivate the trees when the fires took away so much. Now he would say that the lumbermen were themselves to blame for the fires, and that was the experience of fifty years. The reason why so much was lost by fire was the way in which the lumbermen have the forest cut up. He said in all his experience as a lumberman he had not lost more than one per cent. by fire. He thought that it would pay the lumbermen to take care of the limbs and branches of the trees, which were the parts that feed fires.

Mr. Merriam of New York said he had been told by a lumberman that he never suffered from fire on his own ground because he cleared it up and would not allow his men to smoke while at work in the spring. He thought fires were often caused by careless tourists who light their pipes and throw down burning matches. New York has caused every superintendent to become a fire warden and call out every person in his district to put out forest fires. The further discussion was then adjourned.

Reports from Various Sections.

The following delegates were then called upon and spoke as to the doings of the societies in their sections: Mr. William Little, Montreal; Mr. John E. Hobbs, Me.; Judge W. V. Ladd, Lancaster, N. H.

Dr. Cutting of Vermont said at Concord, a stream of seven or eight miles in length, which formerly was powerful enough to supply power for two large sawmills and other smaller works, has become so changed that, instead of their being a water supply for almost the whole year, it has become dry for half its length during two or three months in the summer and spring because the timber has been removed. He thought that stringent laws should be enacted to protect the trees, and especially in New England. One great evil was the cattle being allowed to roam about and destroy young trees. The farmer ought to be enforced to fence out worthless places which are of no use for pasture, so that the forest may grow. In answer to a question, the speaker said there was a great deal of evaporation given out by large trees, which gather the moisture from their great roots, and this, when there is a small moisture in the air, amalgates with that, and so rain clouds are formed, while, if it was not for the forests, the small aerial clouds would pass off to the hills.

Mr. Gould, secretary of the State Board of Agriculture of Connecticut, said the State had empowered his board to see what could be done to the preservation of the timber on the forests, and they were authorized to see what could be done in connection with the other New England States, and this was being done. He did not agree with the previous speaker, for the quantity of water in the air altogether depends upon the temperature.

Mr. Slade, representing Massachusetts, said in Bristol they had more wood than there was fifty years ago. One gentleman said that one lot of large timber of 300 acres he hoed in when a boy. There had been a decrease of rainfall, but he did not know that was affected by the trees. He would, however, cover all the worthless and worn out land, of which there is much in the State, with trees.

Hon. Clinton L. Miriam, of New York, speaking on the subject, said they established an association at Utica last February. He was sure they were sowing good seed. In New York State the cutting of trees had reduced the production of butter and cheese and of hay. The State Legislature had appointed a forestry commission. Mr. Basil, an important lumberman, who four years ago was opposed to the movement, was now one of the best foresters, and he has been put on the commission. The State had voted $10,000 for the protection of trees, and in a few years the people must appreciate the work now being done.

Ex-Gov. Morton, of Nebraska, "the father of arbor day," who was loudly applauded, did not think that the question of rainfall had yet been satisfactorily explained. In his own State the rainfall had greatly increased, and they found that tilled land contained twelve times as much moisture as the same weight of prairie land. In Kansas and Nebraska the State offered premiums for the greatest number of trees planted on arbor day. The consequence was that over 7,000,000 trees had been planted in a single day. [Applause.]

Mr. S. W. Forman, of San Francisco, Cal., thought it showed an earnest of the people of California when they sent a delegate so far. They had there great forest tracts, but recently they were suffering for a want of water. A donation of thirty acres had been received by the commission there, which it is intended to use experimentally.

Mr. Russell of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture being called upon, apologized for not being fully prepared to speak at so short notice.

The Middlesex Fells.

Mr. Elizur Wright spoke on "The Middlesex Fells." He told how the land in Massachusetts was divided among the early settlers, and then referred to the discovery of the Middlesex Fells by Hon. John Winthrop, as shown by that gentleman's diary, which was preserved in hiding in the Old South Church during the revolutionary war and brought to light again in 1825. From that diary it was shown that Spot pond and the fells were first discovered on Feb. 7, 1631, old style. The speaker then read the history of the fells since that time, and referred to the act of the Legislature of 1882. He thought the citizens of Chicago would give $1,000,000 to have such a park. It was proposed when they should become a public domain to improve the fells. They looked to the forestry congress to show the Legislature that the people of Boston should own this grand forest.

Forest Entomology.

Prof. E. B. Southwick next read a paper on "Forest Entomology," saying the subject had not received sufficient consideration. Live healthy forests are not so liable to attack by devouring insects, because the trees are strong enough to resist them. Where fires have begun the work of destruction the insect completes it, but farmers are now beginning to realize the fact, although much requires to be done in this country in the matter of instruction on this subject. The speaker said that in Central Park, which is under his care, he has scaled 7030 trees this year, and had taken 31 bushels of caterpillars and seven barrels of worms. The result was a beautiful foliage. He then exhibited some 50 boxes of entomological specimens.

The congress then adjourned until 7.30 o'clock.

EVENING PUBLIC MEETING.

Gov. Robinson on Forest Preservation. Resolutions Adopted.

A public meeting was held in Horticultural Hall in the evening. The attendance was not large, but comprised many gentlemen well versed in the subject of tree culture. Hon. Warren Higley, president of the association, occupied the chair, and on the platform were Gov. Robinson, Hon. H. J. Joly, ex-premier of Quebec, ex-Gov. Morton of Nebraska, ex-Congressman C. L. Miriam of New York, Hon. N. H. Eggleston of the Bureau of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., Hon. Ben. Farley Poore of Newburyport, Dr. George B. Loring of Massachusetts, and other gentlemen. The chairman briefly introduced

Gov. Robinson.

His Excellency said: Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Forestry Congress: Invited some weeks ago to be present here for a few moments to say something of greeting to you, in reading over the journals of this evening I find the most worthy chief magistrate of the city had already extended the welcome of the city of Boston to the congress, and, knowing her abundant hospitality, I felt it would be almost useless for me to bid you welcome to the larger people. But one is so soon out of the woods in Boston—I do not mean politically—we feel like introducing you to something of the woodlands outside, and so, speaking for the larger number of people outside the city, I bid you welcome to the State. During last winter a resolve was passed by the Legislature asking me to appoint five gentlemen to attend this congress. I assure you it was a pleasure to me to do so, and I wished they might be able to be of some use to you in your deliberations. It is, therefore, with heartfelt satisfaction that I see these five gentlemen are present to attend to their duties. [Applause.] Nor would you expect anything different from Massachusetts or her subjects. She has the right to claim the position of being the first State to take into consideration this question. At the beginning of the present century the old State society of agriculture offered prizes for the development of forest growth, and so it has continued. There is a gentleman here who is credited with a magnificent sum for his devotion in planting trees. In 1837 the government ordered a survey and inquiry into the growth of all the woodlands of the State. You know it resulted in the report of Mr. G. B. Emerson, in 1846, to Gov. Briggs, a work which deserves study at the present time. Indeed, it is a classic, as it were. As early as 1818 our people thought it to be of interest to look to the shipping interest, and so they provided that the agricultural department should provide encouragement for the growth of the oak, and that provision remains on the statute book to-day. Perhaps the agricultural societies do not know this at this time; perhaps because ship building is not now of such great importance. Then in this State we have offered encouragement by the exemption of taxation, under certain conditions, to the owners of trees. Then penalties have been imposed for the wanton destruction of trees by fire.

In 1882 an act was passed authorizing the cities and towns to raise money to make the forest lands public domain, so that the people may have the pleasure of them perpetually. Nor is that all. In 1884 it was my privilege, in addressing the Legislature, to bring the subject before the attention of that body, and it was deemed advisable to get every fact of importance, and the officer now charged with the State census is collecting all the statistics and data on this question, that it may be laid before some future Legislature. That is a most important step. Knowing the gentleman in charge of the census bureau, you know the work will be well done, and that the results will be entitled to confidence. Others far more at home on this subject than I am, and very likely gentlemen who have had more leisure recently to devote to the question, will address you and touch on these topics. But any man with eyes in his head and brains to direct his intellect knows the value of growing forests, even in these thickly-settled States. Time was when we were on the farm that we thought we were doing the highest service by destroying the trees, and year by year farmers have put all they could into clearing, as they called it, land that had better been left alone in the forest. [Applause.]

Agriculture is not the pastime in Massachusetts that it is in the western States, and those of us who began life with those days when we rode the horses to the stump know what it is. I say all such land would have been better land if left alone and the fallow kept away. Experience is proving the truth, because it is a fact that the acreage of the forests in the States during the last half century has not diminished. Certain lands have been abandoned for tillage, although the capacity for production of trees may have been seriously diminished. The whole question of water supply only needs to be touched upon. Boston may well say we are most interested in some practical solution of the question. Boston wants the clear water of the country from the woody forest, from the shade of the forest, where the air sweeps every breeze. [Applause.] And we in the cities want life, energy, muscle and spirit, and we expect to get it from the pure air. Start some fine morning out of sultry Boston and go to the woods of New Hampshire and Maine and try the effect, and you will come home ready to demonstrate that the air of the forests is good. Transplant that forest as near the city as you can, and let the young child and the old men breathe good air in the morning, at noon, and in the evening, and it will be a luxury. Then in naturally concurrent way Boston, who depends on water power is interested, so we in New England hope that out of this meeting the States will find they have a common interest. There is something that we may do in all places. We may not make a forest, for we may not own land enough for one; but wherever there is a dwelling and wherever there runs a road, or stands a schoolhouse, a church or a railway station, or a water trough beside the road where the animal stops to drink, there is the place for a shade. Then, if the animals could speak, how they would bless the man who planted the tree beside the water, so that he could enjoy the cool shade while he took his draught. We are glad to welcome you to Massachusetts. The Commonwealth gives you greeting, and hopes for a great success. [Loud applause.]

Ex-Gov Morton of Nebraska

made a stirring speech on behalf of the culture of trees. He spoke in the same terms as at the afternoon session, but complained that Boston, looking to its utilitarianism, has neglected the trees. The speaker thought the railroads ought to be made grow trees on each side of their tracks, to make up for the vast amount of wood used in ties for the roads.

Mr. Ben Farley Poore,

who was enthusiastically received, was called upon to speak on "forest culture," and made one of his usually witty speeches, evoking considerable applause. He deprecated the attempts to cultivate foreign trees, and advocated the profitable planting of the yellow locust, the chestnut and white ash. He advised that premiums be offered for the best trees planted by boys. The address was full of practical suggestions and was much appreciated.

Dr. George B. Loring

spoke on Massachusetts forestry laws. He said the history of forestry in this country was most remarkable. When our fathers came here the forest was a nuisance, with its savage inhabitants. These was a war against the forests for years, and so it was bred in the hearts of the American people. They were known to be a tenacious people, as their enemies had found out, and it had taken a long time to eradicate the old idea and to begin to think of saving the forest. Germany and France were demonstrating that this was worth the doing. As time went on, a system was introduced to protect the trees here. In 1876 one of the brightest writers advised the fencing of woodlands. The lumber trade of this country was $350,000,000, and notwithstanding all the loss by fire the trade in Maine was $7,000,000. The forest had been robbed by the axe and by fire, and yet the forest industry had been supported by nature itself. He thought the time will come when land will be bought in New England for forest purposes. Speaking of the forestry laws of Massachusetts, he said they were good. The ingenuity of this State would be found equal to that of any other State. But he asked the other States to follow the example of Massachusetts and New York. In concluding, he spoke gracefully of the effort of Mr. Elizur Wright to protect the Middlesex Fells.

Dr. Northrop of New Hampshire

briefly expressed the pleasure he had experienced in the speeches which had been delivered. He said a mistake was often made by planting trees which were too large at the time.

A Long Communication

was read from Senator Warner Miller of New York, who has introduced a bill in the Senate providing for the retention of all public lands which are timber lands, and the appointment of a commission to survey these lands, so as to determine which shall become permanent reservations. The bill prohibits the erection of any sawmill on such reservations. A copy of the bill accompanied the letter.

Dr. Loring proposed that a committee of three gentlemen be appointed to take into consideration the communication and the bill of Senator Miller, and memorialize Congress with such suggestions as in their judgment seem to be fit. The following gentlemen were so appointed: Dr. Loring of Massachusetts, Mr. J. D. Lyman of New Hampshire, and ex-Gov. Morton of Nebraska.

[*See in next week's Ploughman for continued Report.*]

☞ COMMISSIONER COLMAN paid his respects to the *Ploughman* establishment while on his visit to the Forestry Congress in Boston the current week; and expressed great satisfaction with its equipments and surroundings. While in conversation he assured us of his decision to permanently locate the Cattle Quarantine at Littleton. The Commissioner left for Washington, Thursday morning.

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who was enthusiastically received, was called upon to speak on "forest culture," and made one of his usually witty speeches, evoking considerable applause. He deprecated the attempts to cultivate foreign trees, and advocated the profitable planting of the yellow locust, the chestnut and white ash. He advised that premiums be offered for the best trees planted by boys. The address was full of practical suggestions and was much appreciated.

Dr. George B. Loring

spoke on Massachusetts forestry laws. He said the history of forestry in this country was most remarkable. When our fathers came here the forest was a nuisance, with its savage inhabitants. These was a war against the forests for years, and so it was bred in the hearts of the American people. They were known to be a tenacious people, as their enemies had found out, and it had taken a long time to eradicate the old idea and to begin to think of saving the forest. Germany and France were demonstrating that this was worth the doing. As time went on, a system was introduced to protect the trees here. In 1876 one of the brightest writers advised the fencing of woodlands. The lumber trade of this country was $350,000,000, and notwithstanding all the loss by fire the trade in Maine was $7,000,000. The forest had been robbed by the axe and by fire, and yet the forest industry had been supported by nature itself. He thought the time will come when land will be bought in New England for forest purposes. Speaking of the forestry laws of Massachusetts, he said they were good. The ingenuity of this State would be found equal to that of any other State. But he asked the other States to follow the example of Massachusetts and New York. In concluding, he spoke gracefully of the effort of Mr. Elizur Wright to protect the Middlesex Fells.

Dr. Northrop of New Hampshire

briefly expressed the pleasure he had experienced in the speeches which had been delivered. He said a mistake was often made by planting trees which were too large at the time.

A Long Communication

was read from Senator Warner Miller of New York, who has introduced a bill in the Senate providing for the retention of all public lands which are timber lands, and the appointment of a commission to survey these lands, so as to determine which shall become permanent reservations. The bill prohibits the erection of any sawmill on such reservations. A copy of the bill accompanied the letter.

Dr. Loring proposed that a committee of three gentlemen be appointed to take into consideration the communication and the bill of Senator Miller, and memorialize Congress with such suggestions as in their judgment seem to be fit. The following gentlemen were so appointed: Dr. Loring of Massachusetts, Mr. J. D. Lyman of New Hampshire, and ex-Gov. Morton of Nebraska.

[*See in next week's Ploughman for continued Report.*]

☞ COMMISSIONER COLMAN paid his respects to the *Ploughman* establishment while on his visit to the Forestry Congress in Boston the current week; and expressed great satisfaction with its equipments and surroundings. While in conversation he assured us of his decision to permanently locate the Cattle Quarantine at Littleton. The Commissioner left for Washington, Thursday morning.

The Perfect SIDE-HILL PLOW,

Found at last in the Improved North American Plow. We will send this to any one in want of a Side Hill Plow, and if not the best Plow to be obtained can be returned free of expense. *Over 800 sold from Boston in 1884.*

THE COMMON SENSE POTATO DIGGER.

It is simple, of light draft, and not liable to get out of order. Sold at a price so that it will pay any one that raises an acre of potatoes to buy one

DANIELS' ENSILAGE CUTTER,
Horse Powers and all kinds of Ensilage Machinery.
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, SEEDS, AND WOODEN WARE.
C. H. THOMPSON & CO.,
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J. H. PRAY, SONS & CO.

BROKEN SETS

It will readily be seen that a firm doing a large wholesale and retail business must be constantly making remnants and odd pieces in different patterns. These, in connection with such older patterns as we do not propose to run again, we set aside, at very low prices, to close out. We always show at this season of the year a large line of marked down, as we desire to make room for new Fall patterns. As we sell only

STANDARD CARPETS

we are in a position to offer the public real bargains.

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.
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RUPTURE.

The Celluloid Truss

For Comfort, Cleanliness and Durability Unexcelled.

Warranted Not to Rust
Warranted Not to Break
Worn While Bathing

Elastic trusses and belts, so called, soon become filthy from absorbing the perspiration, and also lose their power. THE CELLULOID is not affected by always remains so; is always clean, as it is proof against all secretions of the body. Do not

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, -- BOSTON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1885.

The Poet's Corner.

THE SENTRY YEARS.

[Kit Courtland, in Musical Herald.]

They march for aye down the shores of Time
With footfalls as soft as a silver chime.

With guns at rest and flags low furled,
They man the ramparts of all the world.

In winter, they clasp to their bosoms of snow
The ice flower's gleam and the red leaf's glow.

And in June, when the sun in the gold sea dips,
They leave a kiss on the lilies' lips.

They drench us with spray from the ocean of tears,
As we gaze on them passing,—these sentry years.

Then a joy like a silver sunbeam darts,
And nestles down in our heart of hearts.

They've dragged their robes through a world of sin,
Where the great pure Christ ne'er enters in;

And their brows are burdened with griefs and cares,
The widow's sighs and the orphan's prayers.

So they march adown through the shadows dim
To the fortress gray, on the old earth's rim.

From the beautiful youth who guards the sands,
With roses, asleep, in his childish hands,

To the graybeard, who woke in the purple hours
When God passed down through the Eden of flowers.

And that hoary year, on the old earth's rim,
Has grounded arms on the ramparts grim,

And has furled his flag in the shadows gray,
From the din of the battle—far away.

Ladies' Department.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

ON THE NOR'WEST;
FROZEN IN.
A WHALING YARN.

BY JOHN HUBBARD WOODBURY.

Author of "A Trip Southward," "Corporal Squib on the Farm," "David and I," "The Lost Indianman," How I Found It," etc., etc.

CHAPTER XII.

Frozen In.

It was somewhat past noon when we dropped anchor in the bay, and the sun had gone again below the hills when that slow-drifting ice-field at length drew near the shore. We could hear it, first crashing upon the defiant cliff, past which the baffled masses went drifting down to the opposite shore, their dark edges upturning, and crashing and thundering when their course was at last effectually stayed. "Thus far and no farther" the forerunning, snow-covered hills seemed to say, and they stood unmoved while the great ice-floes crashed and thundered at their feet.

That little bay was the only spot for many a mile where our ship could have escaped certain destruction; and though we lay there secure, the thought of what would have happened to us without that shelter was of itself appalling. We did not distinguish, as we lay and listen to those crashing sounds, during the first hours of the night, for, although we had been so long deprived of sleep, we could hardly sleep now. At length, however, the wind lulled, the tumult gradually ceased, and when daylight came again all was quiet.

But what a scene our eyes looked upon that morning! When at length the sun arose, the great jagged ice-crests that were upheaved all along the shore glistened in its light. And in only that one night the bay had been completely frozen over. Not a glimpse of open water could be obtained anywhere, either in or out of the bay, and all our hope of sailing homeward was gone.

Still there was one who seemed almost to enjoy this disheartening situation, and that was Tanner. "Wal, mates," he said, "old Jack's got his nippers on us this time! You fellers that's been a wantin' all night in will get enough of that; ye'll have a chance ter enjoy yerselves now!"

"But you're not going to turn in and begin to suck your paws yet," said Tinkham, who, having just come forward to the try-works, overheard the remark, "Bear a hand and help, put this cover on!"

"What d'ye mean ter say, matey?" asked Tanner, looking inquiringly at Tinkham without moving.

"I mean what I say. Time enough for nonsense after the work is done. Bear a hand, now!"

"You's a speakin' of pause, an' it looks 's if there'd be a middlin' long one 'fore we get out of this. There won't be no need of hurryin'."

"On with the cover, men!" ordered Mr. Briggs, who had also just come forward to commence putting things in better trim, and to this order Tanner responded without further rejoinder.

We were engaged for some hours after that in scraping, cleaning, and getting things to rights generally. Soon after we commenced this work, the captain and Mr. Weeks both got over into the main-chains and tried the strength of the ice, which they evidently thought could not be very thick as yet. Mr. Weeks ventured down upon it, however, and it held him. Then the captain got down upon it also, and it held them both. Mrs. Harding leaned over the rail and anxiously watched them. After a few words with her, in which we were sure she gave them all due caution, they started for the shore, westward, making towards the highest part of the ridge.

We were kept at our work till they returned, when they reported that, although there was open water to westward not more than four miles away, there was no possibility of getting the ship to it. The ice, beyond those craggy masses along the shore, was one smooth, unbroken field, the upturned edges of those masses, none of which were less than eight feet thick, showed how impossible it would be to break a way through.

The captain, after a few words with his wife, ordered us all into the waist, where he could speak to us together, and then he told us what the chances were. "Of course," said he, "this puts a different face on things from what they were two days ago, and we shall be more dependent on each other, now, than we have been hitherto. I have meant to treat you like men, always, and I must say that you have acted like men, generally. If any haven't, of course they know it, and I needn't remind them of it. It is just possible that a southerly wind may set the ice off-shore again, and give us a chance to go clear, but that is hardly probable. I fear we shall have to stay here all winter. That means eight or nine months, at least, and unless we take very good care of ourselves some of us may not see the end of that time.

"I shall do just the best I can for you; but you will have to obey orders, strictly. There's plenty in the ship to make us all comfortable, and you shall have all you need. We couldn't have found a safer place for the ship, if we are to spend the winter here. If you'll only be cheerful and obey my orders, I think we'll come out all right."

"We'll *have* ter obey orders, capt'in; course that's what we shipped for," answered Uncle Jim, whom the captain always allowed to say what he pleased. The captain smiled a little at this, and went on:

"I've no doubt my orders will be obeyed," he said; "but I want them obeyed cheerfully. We're here, and we have got to make the best of it; I want good feeling all round."

"That's just it, captain." Tanner now interrupted. "We'll have ter make the best on't, of course; but it seems ter me 's if we oughter get a little enj'yment out on't. I aint feelin' noways bad about it myself. If yer wife 'nd little boy can stan' it, se-ms 's if the rest on us oughter."

"That's so! That's so!" was the general response; and other remarks followed which must have convinced the captain that we were all willing enough, certainly, to make the best of it.

"Well," said he, at length, "I am glad you are all feeling so well about it. It's a great disappointment, of course, to be caught in this way just as we were going home with a full ship; but if we keep up good spirits we shall probably come out all right—we shall be a few months older, that's all, when we get home. But we must make up our minds for cold weather, and prepare for it, too. We don't know much about cold weather yet. You'll all need more clothes—more blankets; you'll need both; and mittens, too, right away. You'll have to make your mittens; but there are plenty of clothes and blankets in the cabin; and after dinner you can come down, as I send for you, and you shall have all you need. Of course they'll be charged to you, but the charges will be reasonable. I'll guarantee that the owners won't try to make any money out of us because we happened to be frozen in.

"That's all. You'll get your orders through Mr. Weeks and Mr. Briggs, as usual."

The captain then turned and went towards his wife, who stood waiting, holding little Tommy by the hand, and they went into the cabin together, and out of our sight. As they disappeared, Mr. Weeks ordered us to man the windlass brakes and heave up the anchor.

"Heave up the anchor! What in time is that for?" exclaimed our toothless carpenter.

"So you can have it to set on!" growled Uncle Jim; "what in thunder d'ye s'pose?"

"I didn't know but you wanted it for a bread-hook!" retorted Chips.

For my own part I did not at once understand why the anchor was to be hove up; but a little thought showed that it could be of no use down, while the ship was held by the ice, and would be safer on the bows. Complying with the order, the clank of the windlass rang out on the still, frosty air, which was now so motionless that the sounds seemed to fill all the space around us, and no doubt could have been plainly heard on shore all around the little bay.

The air was motionless and filled with a frosty haze, which at length began to overcast the sky, so that as the day wore on the sky seemed covered with a snowy mantle, through which the sun looked very pale and dim. It was very evident, before night came, that there would soon be another fall of snow. And if winter was coming on like that so early what would it be before it had passed? and how could we endure the terrible cold of the long arctic night, in which for months we would be altogether shut out from the light of the sun? But when the anchor had been made fast in its place on the bows, and we had eaten our dinner, an order came from the captain for Uncle Jim, the carpenter and the blacksmith, to go into the cabin. They were not very long gone when they came back, laden with blankets and the heaviest of woolen clothing, and three more of the oldest seamen were ordered down; and taking turns by threes, the whole of the foremast hands went aft and were supplied with whatever they seemed to need to make them comfortable for the weather that was to come.

In a ship's forecastle every man is his own tailor, and now we each received a new supply of sewing materials, with orders to make for ourselves some mittens out of material which Mrs. Harding herself kindly supplied; though, as the material was new, I suppose it, too, was drawn from the "slop-chest," though furnished to us by Mrs. Harding as a free gift. There is always a supply of unmade goods in a ship's slop-chest, and there seemed to be no lack of anything, either made or unmade, in the Amazon's. So far as clothing could go, we surely would not need to suffer.

We were not put to any other work that day, but were allowed to spend the rest of it in making the mittens, which we already much needed. Each one cut and sewed for himself, but the fashioning of mittens being new to most of us, our efforts were not in every case rewarded with complete success. Even Uncle Jim was bothered with his thumbs and kept us entertained with his constant growling.

"Mittens!" said he; "who in thunder s'posed I'd ever come to mittens! Blarsted thumbs! What'n thunder were thumbs made for, anyway?"

"Thumbs air handy sometimes, Uncle Jeems; but of course you don't need no thumbs ter growl with," came from Tanner. "Why don't ye make yours without 'em, Uncle Jeems, long's you're goin' ter do the growlin'?"

Uncle Jim laid down his work, and, resting a hand on each of his stubby knees, he sat a full minute regarding Tanner with a vengeful look. Then his wrath found vent.

"How'n thunder's a man goin' ter help growlin', 'mong sech a set of scalawags, I'd like ter know?"

It had come at last. And then he went on, running free and easy, as you might say, and berated us all to his crusty old heart's content.

"Didn't the captain say he wanted us all ter be cheerful, Uncle Jeems?" asked Tanner, as soon as there was a lull.

"Cheerful! *Cheerful!* Ay, 'nd I'm bound to make it cheerful! I'm goin' ter make it warm for ye!—warm and cheerful!—that's jest what I'm agoin ter do!"

At this we all laughed, and Tanner said: "Wal, Uncle Jeems, 'twill be warm enough, of course, long's you're round, 'nd we oughter be thankful, I s'pose, 't's you're here; but don't go ter spendin' yer heat nowheres only in the fo'castle, now, 'cause we shall need it all by'n by. These thumbs air a little troublesome, I must say. Jest look o' that, now;" and having fastened on a thumb with the point aft, as he expressed it, Tanner held it up for Uncle Jim to view. This had a mollifying effect, somewhat lowering the old man's temperature, and finally restoring the equanimity of his easily-disturbed mind.

It was too cold to do any sewing on deck, of course, and we worked in the forecastle, where we could only see to work on such a gloomy day by the light of our little tin lamps, with one of which almost every man was supplied. As all the oil we could burn in those small lamps, which held only one round wick, would not make a very heavy drain on our five thousand barrels, we were allowed to use it freely, and, small as our lamps were, when they were all going together they gave all the light we needed, and as yet their heat, added to our own, made the forecastle sufficiently warm—though to one unaccustomed to living in such a place the atmosphere down there might not have seemed the purest that ever was. Whalemen get used to such things, however, and as there is always pure air enough to be had by going on deck, or at least by going to the top-gallant cross-trees, no one ever leaves the ship on that account.

We worked away on our mittens till five o'clock, when we had supper, and then all hands were again ordered into the waist. Then it appeared that a new arrangement was to be made in the watches. Hitherto I had passed with little thought as to whose turn it was to be on deck; and we were now informed that thereafter there would really be no watch below during the day; all hands would be required to be ready for duty at any time, from six A. M. to six P. M., but during the night every man was to have ten hours in; which was certainly a cheering bit of intelligence.

The twelve hours from six P. M. to six A. M. were to be divided into six watches, of two hours each, and one-sixth of the crew, only, would be on duty during each watch.

Of course there would be but little duty to perform during the night, as Mr. Weeks explained, still, some one to watch must be kept; it would not do for all go to sleep and leave the ship to take care of herself—she needed constant attention, even if she was frozen in; fires and lights must be attended to, and fire guarded against; and as a protection against fire, as well as for obtaining water for various purposes, a hole must be kept open in the ice alongside the ship; which hole would need to be cleared of ice occasionally during the night.

Therefore a sixth of the crew would be enough to be on duty at once—and more, indeed, than would be needed—unless some were needed to keep the others awake. The men would alternate with each other in being the first on duty at night—those who were the first the first night coming second the next night, third the next, and so on till on the sixth night they would have the morning watch. In this way each would, during four nights out of six, get ten hours of uninterrupted sleep—provided any one could sleep so long—a very long time indeed it seemed to us poor sleep-deprived fellows who had never had more than four hours at any one time while at sea, and, for the last two months, seldom that.

The cook, steward and cabin-boy were, of course, exempted from standing watch at night; and to these were added the three Kanakas, who seemed quite incapable of enduring any great degree of cold. Poor fellows! it already seemed as if an arctic winter would be the death of them.

The captain took it on himself to head one of the watches; for though he had stood no watch before, it seemed as if he intended to show himself no favors now. The five mates, with their boats' crews, formed the other watches. With the captain stood the cooper, carpenter, Uncle Jim, and the other ship-keepers, as they were called—men who did not go in the boats, but always remained on board to help work the ship.

Mr. Weeks further explained that all hands would be called at six in the morning, that we would have breakfast at seven, dinner at twelve, and supper at five, as usual. And as six o'clock had already come for that night, he said the captain and his watch would be on deck till eight o'clock, and the rest of us might go below; a privilege of which we at once availed ourselves of. And we said to each other, after we were again in our snug forecastle, that we were likely to find some comfort, after all, in being frozen in. Ten hours' sleep, all at once! We could hardly believe it yet.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

FOOD AND SLEEP.

Blessings that "Brighten as they Fly."

[Sarah J. Blanchard, in Good Housekeeping.]

The adage of "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise," is a good one if carried out—that is, if the early to bed induces early rising, of itself; but the waking of children to have an early breakfast with the family is an old-time notion that, like many others held to extreme strictness in youth, is apt to be departed from in later years. Sensible people sometimes talk of sleep as though it were an accident of life that overtakes us — something we must at times succumb to, but of no importance to our well being; its hours can be broken in upon or be done away with, as well as not, forgetting, or not realizing, that sleep and proper food are absolutely necessary for our life. If sleep comes not, we die; if we eat not, we die; therefore it is essential to health and comfort that both be furnished in sufficient quantities and at regular intervals. The writer has known an excellent mother who brought up her family wisely and well in every other way except in regard to these two points. To the early breakfast at six o'clock, both summer and winter, the children must come or go without; and the very fact that always going to bed early, and then were inclined to sleep longer in the morning, shows it was needed, and they should have been allowed to waken of themselves.

Then, too, the older children, coming home hungry from school and finding the dinner distasteful (salt fish, perhaps)—dinner that must be eaten or have nothing. "It was good, wholesome food, good enough for anybody," therefore the logic was, "You must eat it," and so the child, nibbling the distasteful food and finishing on the lighter dessert, leaves the table unsatisfied and really unfed, for, when the sharpened appetite is met by agreeable food, the pleasure of eating causes the saliva to flow readily, and mixing with the food is made ready for the stomach's work of digestion. Much of the discomforts and ills of later years come from the utter ignorance or disregard of these truths; and children should be taught, not by strict rules in regard to it, but by pleasing conversation in the family, that sleep and eating are God-given blessings not to be abused.

THE LAWYER'S SECRET.

It was in a luxuriously furnished room, where a glowing grate threw genial light and warmth upon the occupants, that Gerald Langton listened with bated breath and pallid cheeks to a low and melodious voice that told a story of a life.

The speaker, a beautiful woman of about thirty, yet ten years younger than Mr. Langton, reclined in a low cushioned chair, her attitude speaking of the ease wealth gives, but her face was full of the deepest anguish as her lips recounted the story.

"You love me," she said, gently, yet sadly, "and I love you as I never loved any one before, although I am a widow. That, you know, but did not know my husband's name. By my uncle's last request I dropped it and took his with the property he had left me. Do not look at me tenderly, Gerald; do not shake my voice or my heart, for when you know all you will not repeat the offer you made me, and which, heaven is my witness, I tried to divert."

"Let your conscience be at rest there," said her listener in a grave, yet tender voice; "you have never given me one hope, Maude. By what instinct I knew that you loved me I can never tell. Something in your eyes, some tone of your voice, betrayed you. If, as you say, something in your past life does separate us you have been no cruel one to torment me with false hopes. But, Maude, tell me again, whatever stands between us, you love me."

"I love you," she said, gravely; "and it is because I love you that I will not let you link your honorable name with that of the wretch who was my husband. I was very young—not sixteen—when he came to make a visit to some friends living at Grassbank. Uncle Richard has a country seat near the village. I first met Alexander at a picnic; he was the very life of the party; everybody's cavalier; courteous to all; full of wit and animation and service to all. I believe every girl on the grounds thought she had captivated him, his attentions were so well divided and yet so impressive to each one. He claimed to be no more than a salesman in a large wholesale house, with a good salary, but he had the manner of a gentleman of education, and the most perfect beauty of face and form that I ever saw in a man. It was not long before it was evident that he wished to win my love, and he had an easy task. Such love as a child of sixteen can give I gave him. He was the impersonation of every hero of poetry and fiction, and with my limited reading had made me familiar. Schoolgirl-like, I had made an ideal hero, and fitted this, my first admirer, with all his imaginary perfections.

From the first Uncle Richard disliked him, pronouncing him false and shallow, and assuring me that my personal attractions had not won his heart, but the fact of who was being an heiress to a large property had gained me the protestations in which I so firmly believed.

"It is a painful story to me now, Gerald. Let it suffice that I lived in a world of pleasant dreams while Alexander remained at Grassbank. When he left me he carried my promise to be his wife at Christmas.

"I think if my money had depended on Uncle Richard my marriage might have been prevented by his threatening to disinherit me, but both from my father and mother I had inherited money that made me independent in a pecuniary sense of his control or consent.

"Most grudgingly, however, uncle did consent, after searching inquiry after Alexander, resulting in no worse report than that his employers thought him fast, idle, and just the man to be a fortune hunter. Even then, my dear uncle would have protected my fortune by settling it upon myself; but, with the reckless generosity of extreme youth, I refused to have this done. Never, I was firmly convinced, would my adored Alexander wrong me in any way.

"For a year after the splendid wedding that made me Alexander's wife I was very happy. I was too ignorant of values to understand that we were living far beyond our income—enjoying to the utmost the luxuries around me—the constant gayety that was in such contrast to the school routine from which I had been released.

"Then began a life of neglect, often of quarreling, when I objected to my husband's course of conduct—his drinking, his extravagance and his late hours. Still, I found my own pleasure in society.

"It was four years after my marriage, when I was thunderstruck by Alexander asking me to request a loan of money from Uncle Richard, with the information added that every penny of my property was gone.

"Since then I have known that a large portion of it was lost at the gaming table.

"Long before this I had lost all love for my husband. Respect had died when I knew the dissipated life he was leading, and, foolish as I was, I could not continue to love a man whom I despised. I refused the errand, and brought down a torrent of such great abuse that I really expected Alexander would end by striking me.

"Day after day the request was renewed, but I would not yield. Then my marriage Uncle Richard had sold his city residence and taken a permanent abode at Grassbank, where, knowing my husband to be an unwelcome guest, I never visited him. It was occasionally, but the love of years, like that of a father and child, had been so sadly strained by my persistence in marrying Alexander, that even our correspondence was languid and commonplace.

"I would not therefore write to him to ask a favor that I knew would not have been necessary without criminal recklessness of expenditure, and each refusal made my husband more furious. Then came an overwhelming blow. Alexander forged a check and drew £2000 of Uncle Richard's money from the bank. I don't think my uncle would have prosecuted him had he guessed who was the forger, but he put the whole matter in the hands of the law directly he heard the check was forged. It was traced to Alexander, and at the same time it was found he had robbed his former employers in the same way. He had given up all business upon his marriage, but when he found himself without money his knowledge of the business enabled him to forge the name of Derkiss & Co. Even if Uncle Richard had spared him for my sake the other forgery would have entitled him to penal servitude. He was sentenced to seven years, and uncle took me home, full of pity for the child who had treated him so ungratefully."

"Then your husband is in prison?" said Gerald, in a hard, strained voice.

"No, he is dead. He died within the first year. Uncle Richard saw the death in a paper and sent the money for the burial. No, I am free, but I am the widow of a felon."

"And you are the woman I honor and love above all others, and hope still to make my wife," said Gerald.

It took, however, more than one interview full of love's pleadings to win Maude from her resolution. She so honored her lover, was so proud of his good name and the position he had attained by his talent, that her sensitive nature shrank from even the shadow of misery upon his life.

But the victory was won at last, and the lawyer walked home one evening full of a proud, glad joy, for Maude had then promised to be his wife.

"If you are willing to take Alexander Hull's widow to be your wife," she said, "I will not oppose you any longer, for I love you with all my heart."

He had no thought but of that glad triumph when he turned up the gas in his office. He was in the habit of making a late visit there before going up to his bedroom, in case notes or messages were left for him. One lay there on this evening, a shabby looking envelope, but directed in a bold, handsome hand, which he recognized at once.

He tore it open. After a few words of introduction the note ran:

"You did the best you could on my trial, but the facts were too strong for you. I have now a last favor to ask of you I die, as you know, at noon to-morrow. You, as my lawyer, can see me at any time. Will you come as soon as you receive this, and win the gratitude of the man you know as

JAMES FOX."

"The man I know as James Fox," muttered the lawyer, "the smooth, plausible scoundrel who actually made me believe him innocent of the hideous murder for which he was convicted I can find extenuation for some murders, but this cold-blooded assassination of an old man for money only was revolting. How he deceived me, though, for a time. And how he exulted over his success in doing so when he saw facts were too strong. Shall I go to him? I suppose I must. It is still very early."

It was not yet midnight when Gerald Langton was ushered into the cell of the man who, in a few short hours, was to meet the extreme penalty of the law for the worst of all crimes. Yet there was nothing revolting in the appearance of the criminal. His dress was neat, his hair carefully arranged, his moustache faultless, his hands white and refined looking. He rose from his seat upon the bed as his lawyer entered the cell.

"I knew you would come," he said, courteously, "though you were offended at my want of frankness. Well, that is all over. You will not refuse the last request of a dying man, Mr. Langton?"

"Not if I can grant it," was the reply.

"This," said the murderer, "is not my first offense against the law. Some years ago I was sentenced to a term of years for forgery. By a strange accident I escaped the penalty. On the same day James Fox was sentenced to two years for petty larceny, and we were sent together to prison. James Fox—my companion, understand, not myself—was deranged, but his lawyer had not been able to save him, as his aberration was not always apparent. When we were entered upon the books of the prison, imagine my amazement when my fellow-prisoner gave my name for his own. Like a flash I saw the advantage to be gained by the deception, and allowed the error to pass.

"My companion committed suicide and I escaped with two years' imprisonment instead of seven. But I feared recognition, and went to Canada. There I lived by my wits until a year ago, when I returned to try and raise money from my wife, and thought I saw an easier plan by committing the crime for which I die to-morrow. But I want to see my wife. I wronged her—I robbed her—but, as heaven is my witness, I love her. When I was in prison she dropped my name and took her own again. So it is not for Mrs. Alexander Hull you must ask, but for Mrs. Maude Temple."

Was the room reeling—the ceiling falling—the wall closing around him? Gerald Langton felt that they were, as the name fell upon his ears. Maude—his Maude—the wife of this cool villain who talked of his hideous crimes as if they were ordinary events! Well, he knew that to carry this man's message was to separate himself from Maude forever. Never would she let him marry the widow of a murderer! Very rapidly all of the terrible facts passed one after the other through his brain, and he said:

"If you love her, why add a misery to her life? She may have lived down the old pain you have caused her; why, for a selfish gratification, will you make her whole life a misery?"

"She is my lawful wife. I would bid her farewell."

"She is not your wife. Your own crimes have released her from any allegiance to you," said Langton, sternly.

"You know her?"

Yes! I know what she has suffered, and beg of you to let her still believe you died many years ago."

"She is happy?"

"Scarcely that. Such cruel wounds as hers never heal entirely; but it is infamous to tear them open when they are quiet!"

"Has she married?"

"No; she is still your widow."

"It is hard to deny myself one more sight of her face and the hope I had that she would say she forgave me."

"Think of her, not yourself."

There was a long silence in the cell.

Every throb of Gerald Langton's heart was pain to him; but Alexander Hull sat in moody silence, evidently reluctant to give up his wish.

At last he spoke:

"You have been very good to me. Tell me, now, if you have any personal reason for your request. Perhaps you love her?"

"I do," was the reply. "She has promised to be my wife."

"Then it will be James Fox who is hanged to-morrow. I meant to give my real name, but I will carry my secret to my grave. It may be in another world that the little last self-denial will be a plea for me. Go now. You may trust me."

When Maude, a few weeks later, became his wife, she little guessed the terrible ordeal which her noble husband had spared her.

A GIRL'S RETROSPECT.

[Joel Benton, in Harper's Magazine for October.]

The summer is over. The season
Was cold at the sea-side, you know;
This weather perhaps was the reason
That none of us captured a beau.

For the men found it cool in the city,
And the brokers were blue, it was thought,
So we lost every chance (what a pity!),
And no dashing fellow was caught.

So Maud and Madola and Lillie,
Viola, Narcissa and I,
Were left in the shade (am I silly?)
To wait till next year—and to sigh.

For nothing is done in the winter
In town, with gay talk and fine clothes;
No beau says, "My dear Araminta,"
And none is betrayed to propose.

But when you walk out by the water,
And moonlight falls soft on the shore,
The primmest mamma's plainest daughter
Some masculine heart will adore.

I hope if we go there next season,
We girls, by half-dozens and twelves,
Will not again need, in all reason,
To just simply waltz with ourselves.

Of girls who were blushing and twenty,
With some who were near twenty-five,
There always were more than a plenty,
And yet not a man would arrive.

How wearily all the long summer
We waited—as shore and tide,
And found no available comer—
A bridegroom, perhaps, *with his bride!*

We would stroll to the depot and steamer
To see what was rarer than pearls,
Each one a deliberate schemer,
And lo, a new bevy of girls!

The coats and the hats were all wanting,
No garment bifurcate was seen,
And some gray-headed old maids were taunting
Us of it (I thought it was mean).

Another such year would be awful,
For what are fine feathers and clothes,
If fate is to make it unlawful
For girls to be furnished with beaux?

The summer has vanished and faded;
The forests are withered and sere;
No lover our hearts has invaded—
'Tis horrid to wait a whole year!

WOMEN ON WHEELS.

At first there was some amount of prejudice against tricycling for women. People looked askance, perhaps rather confounding three wheels with two, and fancying that anything of a cycling description must needs be unfeminine. Time has, as usual, proved the best advocate of a good cause, and there are few districts, and still fewer families, where tricycling now suggests anything fast or unwomanly.

That any prejudice against tricycling for women still exists is due, I fear I must own, a good deal to women themselves. Such lamentable spectacles as those afforded to the public from time to time by some riding women go far towards injuring the whole cause of tricycling in the eyes of the world at large; and the unwomanly desire to compete in tricycle races, which lately gave rise to such hot discussions in the cycling press, has done still more. But it is palpably unfair to condemn tricycling for women at large because a few clumsy girls dress unsuitably, ride awkwardly, or attract a good deal of unflattering notice; or because a small minority of silly women pant to win prizes in competition with men in the racing-field.

Of course in tricycling the first consideration must be the tricycle. The question of expense often disposes one to invest in one of those second-hand articles so temptingly advertised on all sides, but as a general rule the few pounds so saved are dearly saved. Never buy a tricycle without a personal examination and as prolonged a trial as possible. Faults, at first unsuspected, often make themselves apparent by use. Avoid rear-steerers —a class of machine which, for some occult reason, were considered, until quite recently, as appropriate for a lady's use. They are less pleasant, and far more dangerous, than the front-steering build.

The tricycle secured, the next step is to ride it. Very little practice is needed by a woman of average quickness and common sense, the motion is so easy. The steering is, of course, the difficult part, and a little usage is required before one grows aware how much unconscious one's touch must be—as light and delicate as that on the tiller-lines of a boat, or the rein of a horse. Of conroe, as in all else, it is experience that teaches in tricycling. One learns by degrees to save one's self much hard labor by letting the pedals do most of the work for themselves, and by economizing all that outlay of strength and breath with which one was at first so overlavish. One great secret of graceful and easy riding is having the saddle sufficiently high —*i. e.*, just so that the instep rests on the lower pedal as one sits at full height. To sit low is infallibly to ride awkwardly and to exhaust one's self.

Dress is the next important question in the female mind. The great fault of most costumes devised by men is their excessive weight and warmth. Men never seem able to comprehend that a woman cannot carry what would be a light burden to themselves. The Touring Club uniform, otherwise neat and appropriate, suffers from this grave defect; also from being too expensive for many lady riders. The taste and fancy of the wearer can best decide how much and what quality of clothing should be worn, but there are two or three indispensable points to be considered. The gown must not be over two yards in width, or it may catch in the wheels; it must be guiltless of steels, or other dress-improving arrangement; it must be long enough to touch the instep as it reaches the lowest pedal; it must be made plainly and neatly, with no floating flounces or frills. A color calculated to withstand dust and grease is the most sensible wear, and jewelery, colored ribbons, artificial flowers, etc., are entirely out of place. Shoes should always be worn, and the head-gear should be chosen with a view to wind, sun, and possible showers. I have found it a good plan to carry with me a small fur cape—just sufficient to protect my shoulders in a sudden storm, or to prevent a chill when overheated.—[Cassell's Family Magazine for October.

A SLAVE WEDDING.

[H. H. Folsom, in Georgia Paper.]

It was just before the breaking out of the war, in the autumn of '59, I believe. Mr. Moulton was a generous and liberal-hearted slave owner, and among his slaves were a youthful pair, "Joe and Marthy," who took it into their heads to marry, and so the master decided to give them a grand wedding, easier plan by committing the crime for which I die to-morrow. But I want to see my wife. I wronged her—I robbed her—but, as heaven is my witness, I love her. When I was in prison she dropped my name and took her own again. So it is not for Mrs. Alexander Hull you must ask, but for Mrs. Maude Temple."

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THE LAWYER'S SECRET.

It was in a luxuriously furnished room, where a glowing grate threw genial light and warmth upon the occupants, that Gerald Langton listened with bated breath and pallid cheeks to a low and melodious voice that told a story of a life.

The speaker, a beautiful woman of about thirty, yet ten years younger than Mr. Langton, reclined in a low cushioned chair, her attitude speaking of the ease wealth gives, but her face was full of the deepest anguish as her lips recounted the story.

"You love me," she said, gently, yet sadly, "and I love you as I never loved any one before, although I am a widow. That, you know, but did not know my husband's name. By my uncle's last request I dropped it and took his with the property he had left me. Do not look at me tenderly, Gerald; do not shake my voice or my heart, for when you know all you will not repeat the offer you made me, and which, heaven is my witness, I tried to divert."

"Let your conscience be at rest there," said her listener in a grave, yet tender voice; "you have never given me one hope, Maude. By what instinct I knew that you loved me I can never tell. Something in your eyes, some tone of your voice, betrayed you. If, as you say, something in your past life does separate us you have been no cruel one to torment me with false hopes. But, Maude, tell me again, whatever stands between us, you love me."

"I love you," she said, gravely; "and it is because I love you that I will not let you link your honorable name with that of the wretch who was my husband. I was very young—not sixteen—when he came to make a visit to some friends living at Grassbank. Uncle Richard has a country seat near the village. I first met Alexander at a picnic; he was the very life of the party; everybody's cavalier; courteous to all; full of wit and animation and service to all. I believe every girl on the grounds thought she had captivated him, his attentions were so well divided and yet so impressive to each one. He claimed to be no more than a salesman in a large wholesale house, with a good salary, but he had the manner of a gentleman of education, and the most perfect beauty of face and form that I ever saw in a man. It was not long before it was evident that he wished to win my love, and he had an easy task.